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Lyng-time fan

Wendy shapes future of her beloved estate

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Family affair

Beauty is relative for contest winners

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Ace Charlotte

Youngster a big hit to win national title

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NOW TIME TO ACT ON ASTLE'S DEATH

Report by John Scott

THE family of West Bromwich Albion legend Jeff Astle have renewed calls for the Football Association to take action over his death.

It comes after new tests confirmed he died from the same disease found in brain damaged former boxers. The 59-year-old died in 2002 after being originally diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

Jeff Astle – boxing injuries

But a doctor who carried out a re-examination of his brain, now believes he suffered a progressive degenerative disease seen in individuals with a history of multiple concussions and other forms of head injury.

His daughter Dawn reiterated her pleas for the game's governing body, the FA, to act. The family had always feared his death was caused by heading a football rather than Alzheimer's disease, as was believed.

Now it has been confirmed the England star, who is best remembered for scoring the winning goal at the 1968 FA Cup final, is the first British footballer known to have fallen victim to chronic traumatic encephalopathy which stems from repetitive low level blows to the head.

His daughter said: "There are no ifs and buts anymore and we want the FA to formally and publicly acknowledge that the game dad loved ultimately killed him.

"We are disgusted by the way they have treated us but we are still prepared to work with them because they have the resources, skill and, I hope, the will to make football a better and safer game."

His brain had been donated for medical research and the family gave Dr Willie Stewart – a leading neuropathologist – authority to re examine it.

They took the decision after discovering both the FA and Professional Footballers Association had done nothing despite vowing to produce a 10 year joint study into the link between heading the ball and the early onset of dementia.

A coroner found in 2002 that Mr Astle's death had been caused by 'industrial disease' linked to heading footballs.

The FA said a cross-football commission on concussion had reviewed the game's approach to head injuries and the rules on concussion were due to be changed before the start of this season.

Blowing up a storm at annual festival

Hitting the right note at the festival are musicians Parshotam Ral and Runveer Bahra, from West Bromwich

King Gurcharan Mall, left, with the other Dhol Blasters

THOUSANDS of people turned out to enjoy one of the largest Vaisakhi Mela celebrations in the Midlands.

Smethwick's Victoria Park hosted the event on Sunday and more than 15,000 people turned out to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the community festival.

Crowds enjoyed live bhangra music, dancing and Dhol drummers. Visitors could also sample traditional Indian food and there was a fun fair.

The event was organised by Smethwick High Street festival committee. The Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Linda Horton, who officially opened it, said: "This is a fantastic event which gets bigger and better every year."

Among those enjoying the funfair was the Chahal family. Father Kulwant, aged 39 said: "It is a great event, a lovely family day out with something for every age."

Building starts on £7m pool complex

WORK has got under way on the construction of Wednesbury's £7.1 million leisure centre and swimming pool.

Builders have begun laying the foundation for the new centre that will have a 25-metre pool, a learner pool, two dance studios and a 100-station fitness suite.

For the last month workmen have been clearing and preparing the site which was home to the town's former centre in preparation for work to begin.

Interserve will work with the council and Sandwell Leisure Trust on the complex which is due to open in summer 2015.

Councillor Elaine Costigan, ward councillor for Wednesbury North said: "It's good to see work has begun on the new centre. The town has been waiting a long time for new leisure facilities and everyone is really excited to see exactly how it will look when it is finished next April."

Work on the site had to be slightly put back following problems with the closure of the Mallings Health Centre near to the site.

When completed the centre will be managed by Sandwell Leisure Trust, who already look after Tipton's and Oldbury's recently completed leisure centres.

'Raging river' road repaired

A ROAD in Tipton that was damaged when a water pipe burst has re-opened after a week of repairs.

The A457 Sedgley Road East was described as a 'raging river' by residents when a 12in pipe burst under the road in the early hours of Tuesday, May 27.

At the height of the flood cars and vans were struggling to make their way through the torrent and had to be helped by homeowners. The pressure of the water pushed up the pavements.

Tributes paid to talented poet, 21

A YOUNG woman who died when she was hit by a car at a bus stop was 'talented, warm, generous and lovely', say devastated friends and teachers.

Tributes have been flooding in for creative writing student, poet and musician Rebecca McManus.

The 21-year-old, known for wearing a trademark red beret, died at the scene of the crash on the busy Hagley Road West in Bearwood on Saturday.

Miss McManus, of Oldbury, had attended King Edward VI College, Stourbridge where she achieved four A Levels — two at A* and two at grade A — before enrolling with the University of East Anglia in Norwich for an English literature with creative writing degree course.

Jane Salmons, English literature tutor at King Edward VI College, said Miss McManus was an outstanding young woman. "Not only was she gifted academically, she was also a talented poet and musician," she said.

"She contributed to many aspects of college life and her warmth and generosity made her extremely popular with staff and students. "

A 32-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving.

Bookies take punt on shop

IRISH bookmaker Paddy Power is to open a new branch in Bearwood.

The group is taking over a former opticians shop in Bearwood Road. Black Country property agents Bond Wolfe have negotiated a 15-year lease.

Bond Wolfe managing partner James Mattin said: "Historically, this has been a popular location with retailers and Paddy Power was quick to see the prominence of this unit's position."

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Christina stabbing inquiry near end

Christina Edkins

AN inquiry into the death of schoolgirl Christina Edkins is nearing completion.

The agency leading the review said it would soon show the investigation's findings to the key agencies involved.

The family of Christina will also have the chance to meet the commissioner and panel members before it is published.

The inquiry involves Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Trust, which vowed to carry out a 'thorough investigation' following the sentencing of Christina's killer Phillip Simelane. Simelane was released from jail unsupervised before attacking the 16-year-old on a bus in March last year.

The 24-year-old from Walsall was detained indefinitely after pleading guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. It had been expected the review would be published by the end of last year.

A cross-city clinical commissioning group spokesman said: "We are aware that the investigation into the circumstances leading up to the tragic death of Christina Edkins is nearing completion.

"This investigation has involved a number of key services who will shortly be asked to review the report findings and identify how learning will be embedded. Before agreeing the final publication date of this report, the families will have the opportunity to meet with the commissioner and panel members to discuss the findings."

Town is rocked by bus stop collision tragedy

A COMMUNITY is still coming to terms with tragedy after a young woman from Oldbury died and another was seriously injured after a car ploughed into a bus stop.

Rebecca McManus, aged 21, died at the scene of the crash that happened on the busy Hagley Road West in Bearwood on Saturday. A second woman, also 21, who was with Miss McManus, remains in a critical condition.

Killed – Rebecca

Miss McManus was struck when a red Mitsubishi vehicle mounted the pavement and crashed into a bus stop at 7.50pm. The car ended up in the grass embankment 50 ft away.

Police have issued a picture of Miss McManus as they urged witnesses of the crash to come forward.

Robert Harrison, aged 49, who lives just four doors away from the accident, which happened just after a bend on the 40mph road said: "We have lived here for five years and not seen anything like this before."

A 32-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving.

Sgt Paul Hughes said: "I have been overwhelmed by the number of witnesses that have come forward so far but continue to appeal for the public's help.

"I know the vehicle involved, a red Mitsubishi, travelled along the A4123 Wolverhampton Road before turning onto Hagley Road West, and may have been travelling with another dark-coloured vehicle, possibly a BMW."

West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman Steve Parry said: "The second female involved was treated for serious multiple injuries. The patient was taken by ambulance to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. .The male car driver was treated for minor injuries."

Anyone with information is urged to call 101.

Workers cleared in fire at firm

EMPLOYEES at a castings plant had to be evacuated after a filtration unit in one of their machines caught fire.

A total of 25 employees at Newby Steel Castings, in Smethwick, left the premises once the blaze started on Monday.

They were already outside the factory unit when two fire crews from Smethwick and Handsworth stations arrived.

Crews from Smethwick station were called to the scene, in Cornwall Road, at around 2.30pm.

Flames were isolated to one of the machines after a dust filter set alight.

The fire crews left the scene around two hours later, and left the machine with engineers at the plant.

Family's joy as James is home

James Birks, aged 14, who has now returned home, with dad Jason and mum Amanda

HE SUFFERED a serious brain injury when he was knocked over by a van as he played out with his friends.

Now the family of James Birks has welcomed him back home in Wednesbury after more than a year of treatments for the injury that left him unable to speak or walk unaided. The 14-year-old and his family have recently moved to a new house in Beebee Road, which has been specially adapted.

His mother Amanda Knight said: "It's lovely to have him back home, but it's been a real struggle for us and we are still trying to get him into a routine."

James and his family's lives were irrevocably changed on April 24 last year when he was knocked down on a pedestrian crossing on the A461 High Bullen in Wednesbury while out playing with friends.

He was flown to Birmingham Children's hospital by air ambulance and spent four months there with his family by his side, his father Jason, 45, sleeping next to him.

He will soon be starting at Chadsgrove School, near Bromsgrove, which specialises in teaching children with disabilities. "He continues to make good progress and is already achieving the same levels in mathematics that he was before the accident, but it is his emotional age that has changed and he sometimes throws tantrums, which is hard for us as a family," said Mrs Knight.

Building society is back in profit

THE West Bromwich Building Society has returned to profit for the first time since it was hit by the credit crunch.

It follows a five-year 'back to basics' strategy for the 165-year-old society, which has 36 branches.

The society, which employs 800, made a pre-tax profit of £2.1 million for the year to the end of March following a loss of £9.1m in 2012/2013.

It made a return to the residential lending market and lent £213.6m, up from £19.3m for the previous year.

Chief executive Jonathan Westhoff said: "The return to profit is a landmark achievement and a direct result of the 'back to basics' strategy we implemented in 2009.

"At the same time we have further strengthened our capital position, creating the right conditions for a period of sustainable growth."

The society's new 70,000 sq ft five-storey head offic at Providence Place, which replaces the current High Street headquarters, is due to open next spring.

"West Brom can face the future with considerable optimism," added Mr Westhoff.

Revamp plans for fast food

FAST food chain McDonald's plans to invest in its restaurants in Brickhouse Lane South, Tipton and Park Road, Halesowen.

Plans to re-configure the drive through at the Halesowen site have been lodged to create of two side by side lanes for the ordering points, which bosses say would reduce waiting times and help to cut noise and congestion. It would create five jobs.

A similar upgrade at Oldbury is being looked at at but no definite decision has been made. Around 10 jobs are expected to be created.

Cycle challenge

CYCLING enthusiasts are being encouraged to saddle up for a charity bike ride from Birmingham to Oxford on July 6, for the Midlands Air Ambulance.

The 77-mile ride is open to anyone over the age of 16. Registration costs £24. Visit www.bike-events.co.uk.

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Difficult decisions for those hit by tax

PEOPLE in the Midlands hit by the bedroom tax are cutting back on essentials such as food and heating, a survey has claimed.

The questionnaire carried out for the National Housing Federation found over a third of people affected by the bedroom tax in the area have cut back on food and more than a quarter have cut back on heating as a result of the tax.

Almost 45 per cent of those affected have also needed to borrow money to help pay their rent since the introduction of the bedroom tax in April last year.

The survey also shows seven in 10 people are concerned about falling behind on rent and 86 per cent are concerned about meeting their living costs. A total of 63 per cent of those affected in the Midlands are concerned about eviction.

Chief executive of the Federation David Orr said: "People stung by the bedroom tax are being forced to make difficult choices on which bills to pay and which essentials to go without.

"They are living in fear that they will lose their homes and have resorted to borrowing from friends and family to try and get by. The only solution is to abolish this policy."

Medics and fire service open up new hub

The personnel seen at their new base

PARAMEDICS have moved in with their colleagues from the fire service to create a new centre which will serve the West Midlands.

After more than 60 years, paramedics have moved from their base of 60-years Henrietta Street Ambulance Station in Birmingham. They have moved into a newly-refurbished space on the site of Aston Fire Station – a mile and a half down the road.

The move has seen nine crews formed of 68 staff members from West Midlands Ambulance Trust move to the first floor of a building adjacent to the fire service facilities. It boasts a self-contained space made up of a mess room, dining room, kitchen, locker rooms, toilets, showers, office space and car parking bays for ten ambulance vehicles.

The building has been provided by West Midlands Fire Service as temporary accommodation whilst negotiations continue to build a new joint hub in Aston, which could be up and running in around three years' time. Tony Iommi, the Trust's Assistant Area Manager for Birmingham Central, said: "The move from Henrietta Street to Aston couldn't have gone any better. It's a real testament to the meticulous planning, hard work and professionalism of everyone involved in the project, both from the fire service and ambulance service."

Rob Woolley, West Midlands Fire Service's station commander in Aston, said: "The facility has been transformed, in a relatively short space of time, from a tired and empty building into a really smart hub for the ambulance service. I've already formed strong relationships with Tony and his colleagues during the refurbishment and I'm excited about the future."

Borough schools failing to meet crucial targets

ALMOST half of Sandwell's secondary schools are performing below the national average, according to new figures.

Ofsted statistics show 46 per cent fall below the national benchmark of 72 per cent rated good or outstanding – a trend repeated across the Black Country and Staffordshire. The figures relate to the watchdog's crucial rating of the overall effectiveness of a school.

They show that only 54 per cent of schools in Sandwell hit this target.

But the statistics also showed Sandwell did not have a secondary school rated as inadequate – the bottom of the standards table.

In Dudley the number of top rated schools is just 45 per cent, whilst the figure is 65 per cent in Walsall, 68 per cent in Staffordshire and 69 per cent in Wolverhampton.

But in response, headteachers said figures should not be the only way to mark performance and standards for pupils. Pank Patel is headteacher at Wood Green Academy, in Wednesbury, which has been rated outstanding on three occasions.

He said: "We've got to be very careful on damning schools that are working really hard at improving. We're a long way forward from where we were recently. Standards are improving at a drastic rate."

"Schools are now working more collaboratively together."At the time statistics were compiled in December last year10 per cent of Dudley's secondaries were classed as inadequate.

Dudley's education chief Councillor Tim Crumpton said he expected the 'deeply disappointing' figures to improve over the next 12 months.

Cadbury's wartime tale is told

THE wartime exploits of one of the West Midlands best known families has been revealed in a new documentary as part of the First World War centenary.

The BBC programme 'Cadbury's at War' filmed at locations across Birmingham and Staffordshire will show for the first time the conflicting paths taken during the First World War by two brothers from Birmingham's world famous chocolate business.

Presented by former World Super Middleweight champion, Richie Woodhall, the film tells the story of Laurence and Egbert Cadbury. The family had strong anti-war beliefs that put them at odds with the national call to arms.

The documentary is part of the BBC's World War One At Home project, in partnership with Imperial War Museums, 'Cadburys at War' offers an insight into how the war affected two brothers through exclusive access to their private letters.

It was broadcast on Monday but is available on the BBC iPlayer.

Wendy helps shape future of estate

Wendy Boneham overlooking construction work taking place to transform West Bromwich's Lyng Estate

WHEN Wendy Bodenham moved on to the run-down Lyng Estate in West Bromwich she never dreamed she would become involved in its regeneration.

But 26 years later the district nurse sits as head of the Lyng Community Association (LCA) and has been one of the key drivers in its transformation from a 1960's housing development to a modern thriving community in the heart of West Bromwich.

In 1988 the mother-of-two moved in to her home in Dora Road with her husband Bob but has since become a well-known local figure. She said: "I'm originally from Bristol.

"I came to West Bromwich from Aberystwyth. Lots of people seem surprised when I say I moved from Wales to the Black Country, but it is the best move I ever made. West Bromwich is great and the people are really friendly around here."

She became involved in plans to redevelop the Lyng when council tenants, including one of her own patients, started being moved to different accommodation as crews began work to demolish their homes.

After going along to a meeting about how best to rehome people with specific health needs, Wendy ended up joining the group of tenants working with the council to decide what the new estate would look like – in what would eventually become LCA.

She was instrumental in getting charitable status for the group and in ensuring tenants from the old estate got priority for new homes.

The 58-year-old said: "It was a steep learning curve and none of us really knew what to expect.y."

In the first two phases, LCA built 86 houses and apartments. The third and final phase, which started in 2010 and brought Barratt on board, has involved building another 114 affordable homes and 250 for private sale.

Work is now nearing completion.

Cycle ride is axed in city

A POPULAR bike ride in Birmingham has been axed despite council bosses sealing millions of pounds to promote cycling in the city.

Hundreds of riders have taken part in the Birmingham Skyride. Dozens of similar events take part across the country.

Council bosses said the event will not take place in the city this year as officials say they could not find a suitable date and route, but hope to bring the ride back next year. The city council secured £17 million government cash last year for to create a safer cycle network.

New Five Guys

AMERICAN burger chain Five Guys is to open a 3,100 sq ft restaurant at the Touchwood shopping and entertainment complex in Solihull. It will be its second West Midlands site. It already has a restaurant in The Bullring shopping centre in Birmingham.

NEWS in brief

Choir looking for new blood

MEMBERS are needed to join a brand new community choir. Meeting every Tuesday night at Wednesbury Town Hall from 7pm to 9pm, Sing Wednesbury is a non-religious choir open to all ages and abilities would be welcome.

No previous experience is necessary and children would need to be supervised by an adult.

There is no need to be pitch perfect. The choir will be led by an experienced teacher. For details call 0121 556 4914.

Museum to step back to the 1940s

VISITORS to a museum will be able to experience what life was like during the war years during a weekend of events.

Staff and volunteers at the Black Country Living Museum will be once again hosting the 1940s-themed activity on July 19 and 20.

People will be able to encounter a range of attractions and there will also be demonstrations of air raid sirens, searchlights and military checkpoints.

For more information, or to book, call 0121 520 8054.

Pundit's expert view on boxing

TV boxing presenter Steve Bunce will be the speaker at Grays Promotions' next sporting lunch for businesses.

He will be telliing the inside stories from the world of professional boxing at the Gentlemen's Friday Club event at Birmingham's Copthorne Hotel on July 11 at 12.30pm. Tickets costing £45 are available from Cannock-based Grays on 01543 502049.

Voila, La Voix for Pride preview

A DRAG act who made it through to the Britain's Got Talent semi-final stage will appear at a show as part of Walsall's Pride celebrations.

On July 18 a 'pre-Pride Mardi Gras party' will include a show by La Voix, at the Arbor Lights Restaurant in Lichfield Street and tickets are £15. The main event is on August 23.

Blaze at pub

AROUND 150 customers watching the England v Peru match at the Imperial pub in Darwell Street, Walsall, had to be evacuated after an arson attack. A toilet roll dispenser was deliberately set alight.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

A NEW £12 million contract will reportedly keep Jeremy Clarkson at the BBC until 2018 and make a fortune for the Corporation in overseas sales. You still wonder why Auntie refuses to get rid of him? If Clarkson blacked-up and did an impression of Barack Obama singing The Sun Has Got His Hat On, he'd still be unsackable.

□□□□□□□□

REJOICE, for the rocks beneath England appear to contain billions of barrels of shale oil. So if Scotland votes for independence and takes what remains of its North Sea oil, we've got plenty of our own. Did you ever doubt that God was an Englishman?

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WHEN will politicians stop referring to Ukip's success as extraordinary? It was not so much extraordinary as inevitable. Push people too far in the wrong direction and one day they will push you back. A politician who doesn't get that doesn't understand anything about politics, or people.

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USEFUL political phrases. In Egypt, the 50 per cent who never turn out to vote are known as the sofa party.

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A SPOKESWOMAN explains that the aim of Wolverhampton University in opening an "African hub" on Mauritius (seriously) is "to further develop our course offer and grow student numbers." I wonder what that means in English.

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AS new celebrity allegations arise, I am reminded that when I was covering magistrates' courts in the 1970s when some of these offences allegedly happened, the going rate for indecent assault was a £30 fine and a talking-to by the chairman of the bench. Prison was reserved for really serious offences and the courts had a very different idea of what constituted "serious". I once saw a man get three months for poaching rabbits.

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HERE we go. I wondered how long it would be before Education Secretary Michael Gove's ban on taking kids on holiday in term time became a human-rights issue. Sure enough a group called Parents Want A Say claims the ban infringes the right to family life in the European Convention on Human Rights. The lawyers who created the Convention must be turning in their graves. Their solemn duty, after the horror of the Second World War, was to ensure the continent was never again taken over by dictators. The right to family life was drafted to prevent husbands, sons and fathers being carted off as slave labourers. It was never designed to give families a fortnight together in Benidorm. Today the Convention has become so devalued that it is brandished by everyone from criminals who thoroughly deserve to be deported to silly pupils who don't want to wear school uniform. Now, we are told, there is a human right to term-time holidays. PlanetSKI, a website devoted to winter sports denounces Michael Gove's ban: "It is stopping families enjoying a ski holiday at times outside official school holidays and this may have a long-term impact on the future number of skiers and snowboarders." Dear God, not a national shortage of skiers and snowboarders. It is beyond parody.

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WHEN young men volunteer for war, their families do not always see them as heroes. A court heard how, when Mashudur Choudhury told his wife he wanted to join the civil war in Syria, she texted him: "Go die in battle. Go die. I really mean it, just go." I was reminded of another war and an old soldier I once interviewed. Jim Jones lied about his age to join the army in 1940 when he was just 16. The memory of his mother's reaction stayed with him for the next 70 years. She said: "If he wants to get his bloody head blown off, let him." Jim Jones won the Military Medal in Burma and came home a hero. Mashudur Choudhury is probably going to jail. Fortunes of war.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Work starts to improve traffic island

ONE of the West Midlands' busiest and most congested traffic Islands is undergoing work to enhance safety and improve traffic flow.

More than £800,000 is being spent on the Salford Circus roundabout, near Great Barr at junction six of the M6, and will see the busy island widened and new traffic signals installed.

It is hoped the work, which started on Monday, will reduce traffic congestion and improve journey times. The eight-week 'pinch point' improvement scheme will take place mainly during the night from 8pm to 6am, although some work may have to be during during the day.

Jess Kenny, project manager for the scheme, said: "This £800,000 pinch point scheme has been designed to make the junction safer and improve journey time reliability for road users.

"The improvements will reduce traffic congestion which, in turn, will reduce journey times, particularly during peak periods, and benefit the environment by reducing slow moving and queuing traffic.

"Although we have scheduled most of the work to take place overnight, to minimise disruption to road users some work may have to take place in the day. We will publicise all diversions and lane closures in advance."

During the course of the work, there will be various lane closures at the roundabout, including a full closure of Slade Road, the A38 link road approaches to the roundabout, the A5127 Lichfield Road and Tyburn Road approaches.

£1k police fund boost for cricket club in raid

A CRICKET club in the Black Country that was targeted by masked raiders has been given a helping hand on the road to recovery thanks to a cash boost from a police fund.

Bosses at Old Hill Cricket Club in Cradley Heath are celebrating being given a £1,000 cash donation from West Midlands Police using money gained from the Police Property Act (PPA) fund.

By Tom Mason

It is made up of money obtained through the sale of stolen property which has been in the possession of the police for more than 12 months.

The club will be investing the money donated by officers into new nets that will be used by young players honing their skills for county and district competitions.

Screwdriver

Nearly two months ago on April 13 terrified staff and customers at the club were locked for an hour inside a freezing cellar by four masked robbers who threatened them with a screwdriver and stole personal possessions, spirits and cash from the club.

The four robbers were all in their 20s and wore scarves across their faces, gloves and dark coloured hooded tracksuits.

PCSO Adam Blackford visited the club to hand over a cheque from the PPA.

He said: "I am delighted to be donating this money to a group which has such a positive effect for youngsters in our local community.

"This club gives young people a fantastic opportunity to get involved in a positive sporting activity, whilst learning discipline and increasing determination and fitness."

Old Hill Cricket Club is nestled between Haden Hill Park and Old Hill town in Haden Park Road.

It has been running for nearly 30 years giving decades of enjoyment to cricketers and spectators both young and old.

The club is the latest group to benefit from money made available through the Police Property Act, which has seen more than £5 million handed out to charities and groups across the West Midlands.

Police are still appealing for information concerning the raid in April and are people to contact theForce CID by calling 101 or speak to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Joy as £12m centre opens

From left, Councillors Maria Crompton and Paul Moore, Tom Watson MP, Mayor of Sandwell Linda Horton, Consort Roger Horton,Councillor Ian Jones, and contract manager Mike Wells

DELIGHTED council chiefs have said they are delighted to have delivered a 10-year dream as a £12.5 million leisure centre was officially declared open.

Sandwell's Mayor Linda Horton and Tom Watson MP for West Bromwich East were on hand to cut the ribbon at the official opening ceremony for the new West Bromwich Leisure Centre alongside a host of councillors and dignitaries.

The centre on Moor Street features a six-lane 25metre pool, a fully equipped gym with wide-screen TVs a learner pool, sauna and steam room as well as a large four-court sports hall.

It also has a large indoor children's soft play area s, a cafe and rooms available for community events and birthday parties.

Mr Watson said: "This centre has been a long time coming and it's so great to see it finally complete. It's a great facility and adds to the recent regeneration of West Bromwich. Today is the realisation of a ten year dream, this is a promise that has been delivered."

To make it easier for people the building also features a fully automated self service system that allows people to book themselves into classes and events using terminals in the building's main reception. Councillor Paul Moore, Sandwell Council cabinet member for health and wellbeing said: "I am really pleased we have been able to deliver a fantastic state-of-the-art leisure centre for the people of West Bromwich, which has been on time and on budget. This is the best leisure centre in the borough. "

The first customers were allowed through the doors at the weekend to have a look around the new centre and its facilities.

Part of the new gym at the leisure centre

Choir seeks members

MEMBERS are needed to join a brand new community choir. Meeting every Tuesday night at Wednesbury Town Hall from 7pm to 9pm, Sing Wednesbury is a non-religious choir open to all ages and abilities would be welcome.

No previous experience is necessary, just the desire to sing, and children would need to be supervised by an adult. There is no need to be pitch perfect or to be able read music. The choir will be led by an experienced teacher and you will be taught how to warm up, perform and sing in chorus. There will be lots of different songs and styles to help to learn new skills. For details call 0121 556 4914.

Food firm steps up charity projects

A FOOD group is to get involved in community projects around its Black Country factories.

The 2 Sisters Food Group, which has chicken-processing factories in West Bromwich, Smethwick and Wolverhampton, has a corporate charity The Boparan Charitable Trust.

New trust manager Martin Conroy, who has joined from Barclays where he was events and charity manager, is planning a number of events to generate funds.

These include an inter-company football tournament and a fundraising ball to be held at the Grosvenor Hotel, London.

He said the charity was ready to build on the strong foundations put down since its inception in 2010.

Charity champions will be appointed at every factory in the country.

"The aim will be to raise money for a great cause, for example by organising social events, but also to have fun while doing it," said Mr Conroy.

The money is used to enrich the lives of children who are disadvantaged through poverty, disability or illness. Hundreds of thousands of pounds has been raised and more than 500 families helped.

Man rescued from the sea

A MAN from Oldbury had to be rescued by the coastguard in Wales after getting into difficulty in the sea.

The 33-year-old was unable to climb out of the water at South Beach in Tenby, on the Pembrokeshire coast, when he fell ill at about 3.53pm last Monday.

Members of the Wilford Haven coastguard rushed to his aid and rescued him from the sea.

He was treated at the scene for low blood pressure and low body temperature and eventually taken to Withybush Hospital in Haverfordwest.

Fire HQ invite

VISITORS can take a tour of Smethwick fire station, in Stony Lane, at an open day on August 2, from noon to 4pm on August 2. Among the activities will be chip pan demonstrations, zumba classes, bangra dancers and drummers and a bouncy castle.

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Banquet hall plan to create new jobs

UP to 50 jobs will be created under a deal to transform old factories into a banqueting hall capable of serving hundreds of guests.

Weddings, proms, religious gatherings and conferences for up to 224 guests would be catered for under proposals to revamp the buildings in Leabrook Road, Wednesbury.

Guest will be welcomed by a grand entrance lined by tall columns which will lead into a main foyer area following into a main hall with a stage and rows of tables.

The majority of the site will be taken up with the main hall and banqueting area which will be clad in sound and fire resistant materials to reduce disruption to neighbours and reduce the chance of fire. Proposals have been lodged with Sandwell Council under the name AKS banqueting and conference suite.

The business will be run by Akkas Sheikh, who is managing director, operations manager Suban Uddin and Kobir Ahmed, financial controller.

Bosses say the venue would have five fulltime staff but will have a regular part-time staff of 40 to 50 employees who will be called upon depending on events.

Lufthansa's special fares

GERMAN airline Lufthansa, one of the biggest operators from Birmingham Airport, is offering some special return fares to mark the launch of its new premium economy class.

It is now available for UK passengers booking on flights flown by its Boeing 747-8 from December. Destinations that can now be booked for onward connecting flights from Frankfurt include Buenos Aires, Chicago, Hong Kong, Mexico City, and Washington DC.

The promotional return fares include £909 to Seoul and £949 to Hong Kong.

Summer sale on

A SUMMER sale is being held on Saturday to raise funds for Causeway Green Methodist Church. The sale at the church, on Pencricket Lane in Oldbury from 1pm to 3pm, will include stalls with homemade cakes, books, prizes and handbags. Entry is free.

Sewer blockages are up by 50 per cent

SEWER blockages in part of the Midlands have increased by 50 per cent over the last four months according to new figures.

Bosses at the water firm Severn Trent say householders in the Black Country are putting everything from nappies and razors to medicines and oil down their plugholes and toilets.

As a result the company says it has seen a spike of 50 per cent in blocked sewers between November last year and March. They had 207 reports of blockages in November while a total of 312 blockages were reported in March. Residents are now being urged to dispose of household items properly rather than via their sinks and toilets.

Severn Trent Water's waste water manager, James Jesic, says: "Sewer blockages in the Black Country have increased by a huge number over the last few months. This is caused by people putting things down their toilets and sinks which they're not supposed to.

"Sewers are only designed to cope with toilet paper and human waste. So some of the things people throw down the toilet, like sanitary products or nappies, can easily snag on the inside of a pipe and block it.

"And, because some of the sewer pipes are only a few inches wide, any fats or oils that people throw down their sink can build up on the inside of it, clogging it up – even if they rinse it off with boiling water."

The water company boss said that there are examples where the block sewers have caused sewage to pour into the road.

Mr Jesic added: "When a sewer is blocked the waste has to go somewhere. This means it usually comes out of a drain and can flood roads, or even properties with sewage. And, during wet weather as we've been seeing recently, it's even more likely. As well as being extremely unpleasant for our customers, it also ends up costing money to unblock, which is money we can't reinvest elsewhere.

"But all this can easily be avoided, by people disposing of items in the bin, and not the toilet or sink."

The company has now published a list of items that it wants people to dispose of via a bin. It includes fat, oil and grease, kitchen roll, cleansing wipes and cotton wool, nappies, razors, medicines, car oil, paint thinner and other chemicals, dental floss and underwear and tights.

Anthem with passion and pride of the Black Country

by Becky Woods

THE lyrics speak with a patriotic passion to herald all that is bostin' about the Black Country.

And now people can purchase the anthem which has been adopted to help celebrate a landmark occasion.

Black Country folk band The Empty Can have today released their ode I Vow to Thee, Black Country as a charity single.

It has been named the official song for Black Country Day on July 14 and bandmates and supporters now hope the song will soar up the charts.

The song, a Black Country version of the patriotic classic, I Vow to Thee My Country, is available to buy, priced at 99p.

The band gathered at the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Zoo to help launch the single last week.

Lead singer James Stevens, aged 37, thanked everyone who had made their dream of releasing the track possible.

Backing

And he urged everyone keen to celebrate life in the Black Country to come out and get behind the single.

"If people in the area get behind it we genuinely believe we could get the Black Country in the charts," James, from Gornal, said. "It's been a brilliant experience, we've had a fantastic Black Country backing and we just wanted to do something to feel proud about where we come from.

Band members James Stevens, left, and Rachel Slater with museum guide Lindsey Cooper and Steve Edwards

It has been an experience that we are very proud of going through and we have had a lot of fun and met some great people along the way.

"We know that we are going to raise some money for charity and we couldn't be more pleased now to see how it will play out."

Professional musician and youth worker James is joined in The Empty Can by Rachel Slater, 36, who is a nurse from Gornal, and 40-year-old guitarist and producer Steven Henley, from Kingswinford, who works for a local family business.

James says the Black Country Festival, an arts and music celebration to mark the day itself, has boosted awareness and support for the day.

A host of events are being organised through July, with the support of the four Black Country councils, to celebrate Black Country Day. All money raised through sales of the single will go to Compton Hospice.

The charity has been chosen in dedication to Steve Evans, a former Wolverhampton City Council worker, magician, comedian and keen fisherman, who died in January, aged just 52, following a two-year battle with stomach cancer. The original song dates back to 1921 when a poem by Sir Cecil Spring-Rice was set to music by Gustav Holst.

The reworked piece was penned after the band struck up a conversation with Steve Edwards, who runs The Only Way is Dudley Facebook site. Steve, a factory worker from Brierley Hill, has created a video of iconic old images of the region for the single.

He said: "People want an anthem to go with the flag and the national day that we now have on July 14 and this song is perfect.

"I would urge people to support the song and the Black Country by buying the single and helping to put us on the map."

Councillor Pete Lowe, deputy leader of Dudley Council, said: "The community response to the Black Country Day activities has been huge and the idea of a Black Country anthem is something we fully support.

"We will certainly be supporting I Vow to Thee Black Country to help it hit the charts and help put the whole region on the map."

The track can be download ed from Amazon with details and a link through www.blackcountryfestival.weebly.com

NEWS in brief

Woman killed in smash is named

AN elderly woman killed in a three-car smash on a busy Black Country road has been named.

Mary Woodall, aged 83, died after the Kia Picanto she was travelling in was involved in a collision in Cradley Heath on May 21.

An inquest into the death of Mrs Woodall, from Rowley Regis, was opened at Smethwick Coroners Court last week. The cause of death was recorded as fatal injuries sustained due to road traffic collision and the inquest was adjourned.

Road closure to allow works

DRIVERS will face diversions when a busy main route is closed overnight. The A34 Birmingham Road viaduct in Great Barr will be partly shut between June 9 and June 14, between 8pm and 6am.

The road will be closed eastbound between June 9 and June 11, and westbound between June 12 and June 14.

This is to allow Amey to work on a bridge expansion, and traffic will be diverted along the M6 junction seven gyratory road.

Hotel on market in group sell-off

A HOLIDAY Inn in Great Barr is among 21 of the group's sites that are up for sale through specialist property adviser Christie and Co.

The Holiday Inn Birmingham, Chapel Lane, near Junction 7 of the M6 has190 bedrooms.

Offers above £70 million are being sought for all 21, although offers for small groups or individual hotels will also be considered.

On the record trail at big fair

COLLECTORS of vinyl records will be able to bag a bargain at one of the biggest record fairs, The Big Brum, on Saturday, at the Birmingham National Indoor Arena.

Tickets costing £3 for entry between 10am to 3.30pm or £6 for early entry from 8.30am are available on 0116 275 2815 or visiting www.vip-24.com

Orphanage bid

A SPRING fair will take place at Cradley Baptist Church later this month. The event will be at the venue in Church Road on June 28 at 1pm. It is to raise money for a Bulgarian orphanage.

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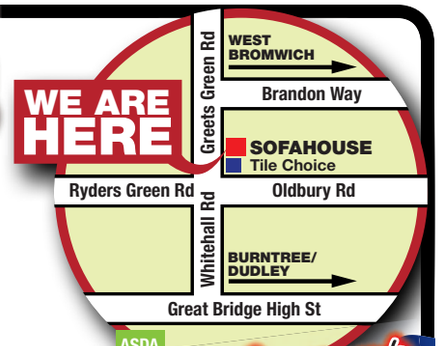

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IN MY VIEW

WITH MARK ANDREWS

AFTER years of being told that online banking is the way to go, it now seems that there might be one significant drawback.

The computers of more than 15,000 people in the UK are already infected with a virus that could see millions of bank accounts cleared out, the National Crime Agency has warned. That's what happens when you entrust your finances to a system which is entirely revolves around the interests of the bankers.

Aside from the obvious drawback that I don't have a computer, I've never really trusted internet banking.

Why did anybody think that passing all your banking details through an international network of public computer systems, protected only by a password which is probably your dog's name, was going to be a secure way to conduct your finances?

Of course, the banks love internet accounts. It means they can sack all the staff in the branches, and provide a rudimentary customer service line from a call centre in Bombay. But what is in it for the customers?

Surely an extra £20 a year in interest is not worth exposing yourselves to the hackers.

❒❒❒❒❒

MAKING another comeback worthy of Sinatra, silver-haired charmer Tony Blair has stepped into the old immigration chestnut.

Actually, after spending a bit too long sunning himself in the Middle East, the former prime minister is beginning to look something like an old chestnut these days, but that is another story.

Anyway, he has accused people opposed to large-scale European immigration of pandering to unpleasant prejudice. And that the influx of workers from Eastern Europe had nothing to do with unemployment in the tougher parts of Britain.

He might have added that there were many exciting employment opportunities for out-of-work British people who were willing to travel abroad. You know, in American banking corporations, peace envoy in the Middle East, president of the European Commission, that kind of thing.

What he did say, though, was that the 'white, working-class, unemployed youth in alienated communities in Britain' were held back by their own lack of education and skills'.

And there is doubtless some truth in what he says. But just one question. Who, was responsible for the education of these alienated youths for most of the last 20 years?

A fellow whose slogan was education, education, education, if my memory serves me rightly.

Final preparations before playing at a Newcastle arena

The boys seen in action performing on stage

Jumps following in McBusted's footsteps

EofE boys heading in just one direction

LEE WATTON speaks to one group of Black Country youngsters hoping to hit the pop big time – EofE

SCREAMING fans singing your songs back to you, devoted Twitter messages flooding in from across the country and jet-setting tours in Europe and America in the pipeline – welcome to life for a Black Country band set to become the next big chart sensation.

It takes most groups years to score a support slot on a much-anticipated tour with one of the biggest pop superstars playing to sell-out arenas.

But for Dudley-based guitar band EofE, this whirlwind tour is just the next step on a meteoric rise which could lead to chart domination and wealth beyond their wildest dreams.

Thousands of fans have been following the group's progress on Twitter – fast growing their support, much like Wolverhampton's own One Direction star Liam Payne.

The band, formed by school friends from the town just a few months ago, were picked to support McBusted on their tour this spring after their manager touted them to the band's promoters.

Pictures documenting their rapid rise have captured the imagination of legions of music fans, who have already dubbed themselves the EofE Army.

Earlier this month the group performed at Birmingham's LG Arena, rocking out in front of a crowd of 15,000. . While this is their first taste of stardom the band are determined not to let the opportunity slip from their grasp after already being offered tours of America and Germany once the McBusted tour comes to an end.

Black Country popsters EofE who have released their first single, Lust

They have performed in front of thousands at venues in Newcastle, Cardiff, Brighton, Bournemouth and Belfast as part of the 32-date nationwide tour.

And it is a far cry from the band's humble beginnings rehearsing at Kingswinford Rugby Club.

Guitarist Dan Bremner, 19, originally from Gornal but who now lives in Swindon, said it had happened 'very quickly'.

"This line-up of the band performed together for the first time in February.

"This has been a major step very early in our career and it has been absolutely fantastic," he said.

"Our first time on a stage of this scale was in Glasgow. The first thing we did when arriving was go out into the venue and look out from the stage. "It is absolutely amazing going out on stage and the adrenaline hits you. It has been a really amazing experience to perform in front of so many people."

Like most bands, Dan said the group had its own ritual before going out on stage. The band prepares for each performance with a vocal routine as a warm-up. They also do sit-ups and press-ups to build up their stamina for the gig.

And Dan admitted to the band enjoying a 'sneaky' Jack Daniels and Coke before going out on stage.

The makings of the band first began three years ago when vocalist Tom Harris, 17, met Dan after he came to see a band the teenager was performing in.

He liked Tom's music and asked him to join the band.

Dan knew bassist Luke Bradley, 18, as both attended the Ellowes Hall School, in Gornal, and had performed in bands there. "We both played in a band at school," he added.

"We all just decided to go for it and to pursue our dream. It has meant giving up plans for college and other jobs."

Drummer Nicky Waters, who is 25, is the only member of the band not from the Black Country as he hails from Newcastle.

Sainsbury's

He joined the band after answering an advertisement. The group was chosen as the support act for the tour after the lads' manager sent their material to the McBusted team, who offered them the slot.

Dan said: "We did not hear anything back for a while. Our manager actually told us we had been offered the slot while we were in the Sainsbury's car park in Swindon. We got a lot of looks from shoppers because we were shouting and cheering so much."

Tom Harris described the opportunity as 'a dream come true'.

The former Hillcrest Community College pupil said: "We are really excited and still can't believe it is happening."

Since then their lives have been lived out on the road in a fancy, big red tour bus. Before this big break the biggest audience they had ever played to was 600. Now the band has released their first single, called Lust, which is available to download now.

POLITICS

WITH DANIEL WAINWRIGHT

THE task of trying to hold on to Cannock Chase next year just became a little more difficult for the Conservatives. Paul Snape, leader of the council's Tory group, claimed MP Aidan Burley had not spoken to him since February 3.

This was two days before he announced he would not be contesting the seat again in 2015, following a series of highly-critical national newspaper stories about his involvement in a stag party where he got the groom to wear a Nazi uniform.

Mr Burley denies this and says they spoke in March, although Councillor Snape says it was just an exchange of pleasantries and did not really count.

Things got very awkward for the Tories after the elections. It started with Mr Burley and his fiancee, Rawnsley councillor Jodie Jones, being noticeably absent from the election count.

Then, as UKIP made enough gains to get level pegging with the Tories, Councillor Snape began to contemplate horse trading over who should be the official opposition.

Miss Jones made the decision for him, revealing she had resigned from the group to serve as an independent and plunging the Tories into third place.

Councillor Snape, meanwhile, is now preparing his group to choose a new Parliamentary candidate to replace Mr Burley. With all not well between all the Tories, the candidate who wins that selection will have one of the least enviable tasks in politics.

Firstly, they have to try to hold on to the seat that produced the biggest swing to the Tories in 2010. That will be no easy job given how Labour have not only made gains on the council but also made a huge deal of the whole unfortunate Nazi business.

Secondly, he or she will have to be able to liaise with Aidan Burley.

If he's not talking to party's local leader, that opens up the potential for a lot of mixed messages to the electorate. Thirdly, he or she will have to be nice about Aidan Burley in the face of criticism and ridicule about said stag do.

❒❒❒❒❒

Bill Etheridge has had a good week. Having spent years trying to get elected, including a fourth place position in the Police and Crime Commissioner vote, he's now not only a UKIP councillor in Dudley but one of three of its West Midlands MEPs.

He's adamant he'll do both jobs. But Labour councillor Pete Lowe thinks it isn't possible. He asks: "How can he do potholes from Strasbourg?" Maybe he'll have time to do council business while on the monthly trip all MEPs have to make between Brussels and Strasbourg.

We still need to stay in the EU

CHINA describes Great Britain as a small country. Being realistic I have to agree with the description. However, being patriotic, I want Great Britain to have a strong voice to be heard and respected in world affairs.

For this reason, Great Britain must remain as a member of the EU. I could not imagine President Putin would be talking to our Prime Minister, David Cameron, had Great Britain not been a member of the EU.

Many nations around the world are forming pacts for mutual protection, for cooperation and for stopping any bullying from stronger nations. We have the African Union Congress, and a few more around the world. This has allowed the voice of even a small nation to be heard.

The EU has faults, but we need to stay in to fight against bureaucracy, corruption and overbearing interference against national interest. David Cameron is right to demand our relationship with the EU must be reformed or renegotiated. Let us not forget that a relationship will never survive if one just takes and takes, and never gives.

P TAN, Willenhall

Remember who casted their votes

AS an unsuccessful candidate in the local elections, I would like to take this early opportunity of reminding those new and re-elected councillors that you were elected by the people of the ward and not West Bromwich town centre shops. I have nothing against West Bromwich, I am a lifelong West Bromwich Albion Supporter.

However I hope that these recently elected councillors will go to the council meetings and represent the wards that elected them, by making sure that each and every ward in Sandwell gets its fair share of money that comes into coffers of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, instead of as appears to have been happening over recent years with more than its fair share being ploughed into West Bromwich town centre.

So come on your new and re-elected councillors let's have fair play for all Sandwell electors wherever they live.

E J JOHNSON
Warley

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Sandwell Chronicle,
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E-MAIL
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Looking back on life blessed with beauty

I AM writing this letter as I find myself looking forward to my 80th birthday. Nothing has given me more pleasure than that of seeing a beautiful woman or listening to the sound of music, I believe I must have been blessed to have had a lifetime filled with both.

After 57 years of marriage my beautiful lady wife Kathleen and I are still living the good life with a twin son and daughter and two grandsons. Kathleen as a young lady became an accomplished musician, playing the violin.

Singing was in my blood thanks to my grandparents, my grandmother having the most beautiful soprano voice, she had an uncle who lived in London and went to stay with him for five years while she studied music at the Guild Hall School of Music. As a young lad I joined the Brockmoor Church Choir till my voice broke at the age of 15. For almost 40 years now I have been a member of my local male voice choir the Gentleman Songsters.

The highlight of my years with the choir has to be being invited to the opening of the National Indoor Arena. Before the concert the Duke of Edinburgh came and said hello to the choir, he asked me if the choir were Welsh to which I answered no we weren't, we are from the Black Country and proud of it as no doubt the Gentleman Songsters always will be.

J GRAINGER,
Stourbridge

Nick, time to move on

BETTER get down to the outfitters Nick, as I'm sure you will be needing to get the robes ready for your peerage, and brushing up on your French as the next step in your career will be in the Lords or as an ambassador in Paris or New York.

But as far as your career as an MP, it's over, and now you will be another Lib Dem joining the rest of your failed party leaders in the House of Lords.

For four years we've been listening to your excuses and your claims of saving the economy. We've seen your mates go to prison, learned of cover ups of paedophiles and seen your business secretary give away Royal Mail. The game's up Nick, you're are toast, so do the decent thing and step down from being Cameron's stooge.

S T VAUGHAN
Yardley Wood
Birmingham

On song for debut novel

A SNIPPET of news that may interest older readers. An Aldridge songwriter, Jerry Williams who has co written songs for Englebert Humperdinck, Robin Beck and the Dreamboats and Petticoats musical has published his debut novel.

Titled 'In Summer' (after the Billy Fury song), it's a story about teenagers, motorbikes and a pop group set in the summer of 1963. Lovers of films such as 'Some People' (Ray Brooks) and 'The Leather Boys' (Rita Tushingham) will find this short novel a great read.

F SULLIVAN,
West Bromwich

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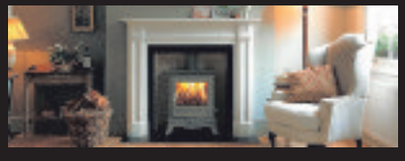

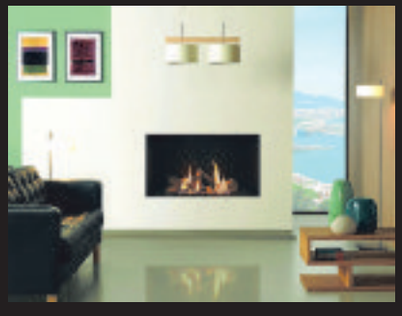

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Nanny and Mia make it a real beauty for family

IT was a case of like grandmother like granddaughter when a four-year-old and her 'nanny' both took the top spot in the same beauty pageant.

Lorretta Garratt, aged 39, and her granddaughter Mia both came first in their respective categories of the Miss Dreams UK Wolverhampton heat.

And competing in beauty pageants is a hobby that runs in the family, as six members across three generations of the Tipton clan all took part in the same competition.

While Lorretta and Mia picked up their gongs, Mia's mum Paige, 20, came second in her category, and her sisters Teisha, aged 13, and 11-year-old Skye also competed.

Finally, in the baby category, Lorretta's second granddaughter 13-month-old Franchesca came third.

Lorretta, a consultant for weight loss group Slimming World, and who lives on Alexandra Road in Tipton, said was taking part in her first beauty pageant when she won in the 'classic' section.

Mia Brookes, aged four, of Tipton, who was a beauty pageant winner alongside her glamorous grandmother Lorretta Garratt, 39

Organiser

She said: "I was terrified, it's not my cup of tea at all. The other girls were taking part and the organiser asked if I had thought about it, which I hadn't, and she said 'if the kids can do it you can do it'. The granddaughter was saying 'come on nanny, if I can be queen you can too', and I can't say no to the grandkids."

Lorretta and Mia will now both go through to the national grand final of Miss UK Dreams next February, and if they triumph there will go on to represent the country in a competition in America. The six women all competed across three different rounds within the competition – creative T-shirt, high street fashion and beauty, in which they got dressed up in their best evening wear.

In the creative T-shirt round, in which they had to wear something they had made themselves, Lorretta had the words 'Pageant mommy and nanny' written across the back. Although it was the first time Lorretta and Paige had competed, the younger women had previously strutted their stuff on pageant catwalks.

Lorretta said: "They were pleased for me, but overwhelmed too to be fair, because they knew how nervous I was. I was shaking like a jelly."

It is also not the first time the family has tasted success on the beauty scene – when Paige was four, she was crowned carnival queen at a competition in Great Bridge. The family also picked up the charity sash in the competition, having raised the most cash for good causes at a total of £300, with half going to William Perry Boxing Club and half to the Miss Dreams UK chosen charity Dream Queen.

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Fans fighting for a chance to see Piper

Veteran Canadian wrestler 'Rowdy' Roddy Piper, who will be appearing at the Glee Club in Birmingham

WELL known wrestler 'Rowdy' Roddy Piper will be telling all about his life in the ring as he comes to the Midlands to meet fans. The star, best known for his long connection with WWF wrestling, is coming to the UK to tell his life story at a number of shows.

He will be appearing at The Glee Club, in Birmingham on July 28 where he will open up about life on the road in the world's biggest wrestling show. There will be also be the chance for fans to quiz the Canadian who grappled with Hulk Hogan, Pic Flair and The Ultimate Warrior.

Tales of great matches will be told and also growing up when he was expelled from high school and became homeless, to learning to play the bagpipes and the origins of his stage persona. Doors open at 6.45pm for a 7.30pm start. Tickets start at £20. Visit www.glee.co.uk to book tickets.

Barbecue appeal to raise cash for charity

PEOPLE across the West Midlands are being urged to become 'barbecue heroes' this summer by pulling on their aprons to raise cash for charity.

Cancer Research UK is calling on people to host their own barbecue to raise cash. The campaign is running throughout July, with a 'barbecue bonanza' on July 19 and 20.

Hosts are asked to invite their friends and family to make a donation to attend.

A free fundraising pack is available for people to help them host their event. Paula Young, spokeswoman for Cancer Research UK in the West Midlands, said: "We're urging people to come together across the gardens, parks and rooftops of the region and barbecue this July for Cancer Research UK.

"We know that people will be getting out their barbecues come rain or shine, so it's the perfect opportunity to join forces with grillers right across the UK in raising money for a worthwhile cause. It's not about gourmet grub or manicured gardens – it's about chicken wings, ketchup and good times! We're inviting men and women across the region to join a nation of BBQ'ers getting fired up in the fight against cancer.

by Catherine Dalton

"Our aim is that one day everyone will beat this devastating disease and the more research we fund, the sooner that day will come. That's why we're calling on our barbecue heroes in the West Midlands to rally their friends, families, work colleagues and neighbours to get their grill on and tell cancer to burger off."

Every day, 77 people in the West Midlands region are diagnosed with cancer. Cancer Research UK receives no government funding but is fighting the disease with help from volunteers. To sign up to be a BBQ hero and get a free BBQ pack, visit www.cruk.org/BBQ

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Solicitor celebrates his 50 years of defending

ONE of the Black Country's longest serving solicitors is celebrating more than half a century in the legal profession.

Harry Hodgkinson, a consultant at Gill and Bassi solicitors in Great Bridge, has reflected on his five decades of representing defendants in courts around the Midlands.

The 75-year-old, from Droitwich, has represented several generations of families and now provides help to fellow solicitors and clients.

He began his career in 1959 as an articled clerk in the Kidderminster area after leaving Birmingham University.

But in 1964 he received his certificate from the Supreme Court to practise law on his own and began handling at courts including West Bromwich and Dudley Magistrates.

"The first time I entered the court on my own was in Smethwick and I won the case," he said.

"I don't think the prosecutor could believe it and I don't know if I did either, but it was a good start to what has been a long and happy career."

Having worked in Sandwell for the past five decades he said he had seen massive change from several courts dotted around the boroughs six towns to just a single court in Oldbury and has seen the growth of computers and technology in courtrooms.

We have definitely seen a reduction in crime and a more peaceful community," said the grandfather-of-eight.

"With the development of CCTV and more sophisticated alarm systems in cars and homes you've seen a decline in amateur criminals,".

During his time he has represented two people accused of murder, who were cleared, and has helped hundreds of others including some families in which he has represented three generations.

"The court room is a bit like politics and while you may be adversaries in court once you leave you put it all behind you," said Mr Hodgkinson.

The train enthusiast said that he hoped to continue working as a solicitor for a little while longer.

"I have loved my time working in and around Tipton and Great Bridge. I have always found people to be friendly, even when I've met them in the most extreme circumstances," he said

Harry Hodgkinson with his solicitor's admission roll which he received 50 years ago

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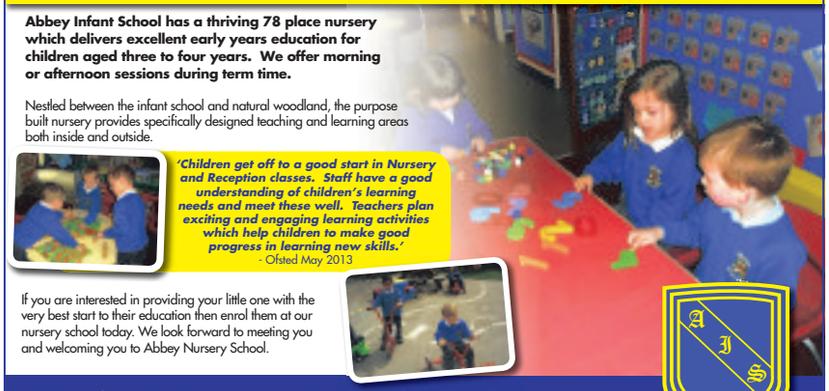

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Amelia marks her 100th milestone

Amelia Brown, aged 100, enjoys her big day with daughter Yvonne Powell at the Oak Lodge Residential Home

CLEAN living and good parenting - those are the secrets to a long and happy life. And Amelia Brown should know – she has just celebrated her 100th birthday.

Mrs Brown, a former worker at the Scrivens opticians factory in Birmingham, marked the occasion with a party at Oak Lodge residential home in Brownhills, where she now lives. She was joined by family and friends for the celebration – but made sure she did not miss her favourite soap EastEnders that evening.

Mrs Brown grew up in Highgate Street, on the outskirts of Birmingham city centre with her parents Sarah and Jack. After leaving Highgate Street school, she married Joseph Brown at St Matthew's Church in Nechells on Christmas Eve 1934. Mr Brown, who was a manager at electrical fittings factory Southgate's, died in 1984.

Mrs Brown has a son Joseph and daughter Yvonne and five grandchildren. She said she did not have any methods for keeping healthy but tried to look after herself.

She added: "I think it's all down to clean living and good parenting. And a lot of luck."

Care staff awards call to patients

PATIENTS pleased with the treatment and care they have received at hospitals in Sandwell or from community teams are being invited to nominate them for an award.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, which runs Sandwell, Rowley and City Hospitals and community services in the area has launched its Staff Awards 2014.

By Lee Watton

Officials are now urging members of the public to nominate a staff member or team for the Excellence in Care Award.

Patients are asked to think of someone in the trust who provides outstanding customer care or consistently upholds and demonstrates care promises.

The awards were launched by Chief Executive Toby Lewis and Chairman Richard Samuda.

Mr Samuda said: "Recognising excellence and commitment to patients is critical for the NHS – without celebrating these achievements it's much harder to drive the belief that our services can achieve consistent improvement and innovation."

For a nomination form please visit the Trust's website www.swbh.nhs.uk or call the Communications Department on 0121 507 5660.

Forms need to be returned by July 4.

The winner will be announced at an award ceremony at Aston Villa Football Club on October 17.

Group Snowdonia-bound

THE West Bromwich Mountaineering Club is heading to Snowdonia on its latest trek. On Sunday, the club will be going to Pen y Pass, leaving on a coach from Edward Street car park in West Bromwich at 7am, and then M54 junction two at 7.20am. Guests are welcome to join the club, which is BMC affiliated and has more than 300 members, at a cost of £22 for adults and £8 for under 16s and full time students.

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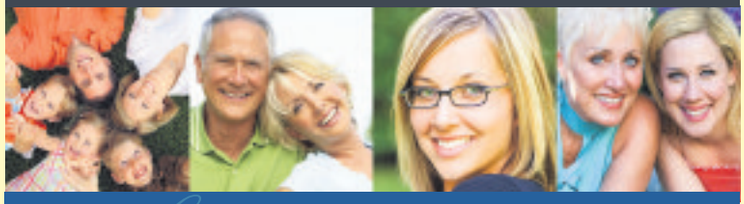

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Tipton Sports and Social Club's committee members in 1975

The function room at Tipton Sports and Social Club in the late 1970s

Milestone for club set up by Palethorpes pals

One of the first pictures of the football team, in 1964

The club's three founder members, from left, Trevor Pearce, William Andrews and Raymond Cresswell

MEMORY LANE
By Adam Grinsell

PROUDLY celebrating an amazing 50 years since it started is Tipton Sports and Social Club which has remained a hub of the community while other establishments have disappeared.

With a membership which has dwindled slightly over the years – at its height there were over 1,000 members – the club still boasts football, darts and dominoes teams, and there is a rich programme of entertainment.

Founding member and secretary, Trevor Pearce started off the club with two workmates, William Andrews and Raymond Cresswell, when they feared they would lose their football team as their base was being sold off.

The trio played for teams formed through their company Palethorpes Sausages. In the early 60s the club began selling off some of its land – including where the teams played at Coneygree Road in Tipton.

The football team was at the time playing in the Birmingham Works League, but suddenly were given a week's notice that they would no longer be able to continue.

So the three friends decided to look for land where they might be able to move the teams.

Mr Pearce, now the only surviving founder member of the club, said: "We were losing the patch of land and everything. We wrote to everyone in the area, even as far away as Stoke. There was at least 10 sites I wrote to personally to try to get the land to form a club."

The group, under the name Tipton Sports and Social Club, could use a council-owned pitch for the football team but it still needed a club house – they first moved into a room above the Boscobel Tavern, on Boscobel Street, which they rented for £1 a week.

They ran bingo sessions to amuse the 30 or so regular members, which were mostly the players and their wives. Mr Pearce, collecting the subs, had to sit at the top of the stairs in the pub so that the others had space for their activities inside the hired room.

Eventually, running club Tipton Harriers approached the group, as its hut was on land that was also owned by Palethorpes – land which was also to be sold. Between the two clubs they agreed that Tipton Sports would buy the land, while in return for use of the building Tipton Harriers would be allowed to use the facilities as its headquarters.

The club then had a home to call its own, and Tipton Sports and Social Club was born.

As the club grew, their base improved, with a bar being installed, a car park laid, and in 1968 a new building was erected. Since then the club's home on Sedgley Road East has been significantly improved, and two years ago had a £98,000 refurbishment.

For more information on the club, including the hire of its function room, see www.tiptonsportsandsocialclub.co.uk, or call 0121 5574136 or 0121 5201754.

Children at the club get a visit from Santa in the 1970s

Tipton Sports and Social Club, situated on Sedgley Road East, which is celebrating 50 years

Blow for fundraiser as bucket stolen during restaurant raid

A CHARITY hero that has run dozens of marathons for cancer organisations has described the theft of a collection bucket as 'heartless.'

Marathon runner Tony Meehan had just completed his 21st marathon in Liverpool when he got the news that one of the buckets collecting money for his charity, Macmillan had been stolen from a restaurant the day before. Spices Restaurant in Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, had been raided overnight and thieves had taken the bucket and the restaurant's till before making off.

The lid to the bucket was quickly found outside the venue, but the bucket was later found several roads away in Lloyd Street. Mr Meehan who was recently elected councillor for Wednesbury north said: "I had only just heard the news after I had finished the race and it hit me hard. n. Whoever have done this is a bit heartless."

The fundraiser who has raised more than £100,000 for the cancer charity in memory of his brother Michael who lost his battle with the disease four years ago had placed the bucket in the restaurant as part of his latest campaign 'Pennies make pounds. Pounds change lives', which has so far raised £3,230.

The 60-year-old runner who dresses as a leprechaun called Loopy to complete each marathon, added: "If they hadn't taken the bucket the overall figure could have been much higher. It's been real blow."

Police officers at the town's police station have launched an investigation into the theft which happened on May 25.

Mr Meehan's fellow Wednesbury Councillor and friend, Councillor Elaine Costigan was one of the first people to hear about the theft. She said: "It's despicable that this has happened." People can also continue to support Mr Meehan's campaign by going to www.justgiving.co.uk/tony-meehan2.

Elaine Costigan, Tony Meehan and Sgt Chris Payne with the retrieved bucket

Robbers throw bottles at trader

ROBBERS attacked a shopkeeper with a bottle in his shop in Darlaston before stealing cash from the till in broad daylight.

The two men entered WS10 Wine and Beers in Darlaston Road at around 10.40am on Monday, police have revealed. The pair then hit the shopkeeper with a bottle.

The attackers then made off with £500 after smashing open the till. Shopkeeper Rajiv Sharma was taken to hospital with a nose injury and a cut beneath his eye.

Mr Sharma – known by friends and family as Sunny – has told how he tried to fight off the robbers as they hurled bottles at him and punched him in the face. Mr Sharma has been left with bruises and cuts to his eyes and nose, and needs an X ray before the extent of the damage is known.

The 28-year-old, who runs the shop with his father Surinder Kumar, said: ""I was trying to defend myself which I did, but it was two big blokes against me so it was difficult."

Mr Kumar said they refused to be intimidated by the attack. Police are asking any witnesses to the robbery to call them on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Care home fears are allayed at meeting

A FIRM building a six-bedroom respite care home should have provided more information about the development to ease nearby residents' fears, a meeting was told.

Residents near the development, being constructed on the former Birch Coppice pub site, in Quarry Bank, packed into a meeting to hear from bosses, with concerns that youngsters at the site may cause anti-social behaviour.

by Lee Watton

Many were concerned youngsters using the new site could cause anti-social behaviour after 'rumours' spread around the area. But bosses from CareTech, who are building the bungalow, told residents children and young people using the site had physical and learning difficulties and would be under constant supervision.

Some of them have 'complex medical needs' and are confined to a wheelchair. The bungalow being developed on site will have six bedrooms and be used for 'respite breaks' for the youngsters and families.

Plans to convert the former pub building itself into a seven bedroom care centre to house youngsters with similar needs permanently is also being worked on with planning permission still to be approved. Director of children's services for CareTech Bob Yetzes told the meeting, held at Birch Coppice Methodist Church, he was aware there were concerns from some residents living near to the site.

"There will only be six children using this site at a time. They have physical and learning difficulties and will be supervised 24 hours a day," he said. "None of them will leave the home without the supervision of nurses. The home is to provide respite for both the children and their families."

Resident Ian Hatfield, aged 41, who lives near to the pub site, said: "I believe these rumours have sprung up through miscommunication. If signs had been put up around the site clearly explaining what youngsters will be using the centre then I don't think any of us would be sitting here tonight.

"All that was needed was more consultation."

Mr Yetzes accepted that should have been done and said before the centre was launched an open day would be held for residents to look around the site.

Fellow resident Jean Attwood who lives directly next to the site said: "I have lived there for 43 years and I am very pleased with the development. It is far better than having a derelict pub there."

The centre is due to open later this year. Speaking after the meeting, ward councillor Bryan Cotterill said: "This meeting was not called as a protest against

New sexual health walk-in clinic open

A NEW clinic is starting up at a hospital to help make sexual health screening more accessible for patients.

The new walk-in clinic at Rowley Regis Hospital will open every Thursday from 5pm to 7pm, offering sexual health screening and counselling to men and women.

Alexandra Louise Young, senior sexual health nurse, said: "We are now reaching further afield from our base at Dartmouth Clinic in Sandwell Hospital. We hope that patients find it beneficial that we are providing a walk-in clinic which they can attend after finishing work."

The team will be working alongside Family Planning at Rowley Regis Hospital to make sure both are covered, with screening advice and contraception.

Alternatively walk-in clinics are still available at Dartmouth Clinic in Sandwell Hospital, Mondays from 1.30pm to 3.30pm and Tuesdays to Thursdays from 1pm to 3.30pm. Patients can book appointments on 0121 507 3094.

Focus on Wednesbury

Splinter group in dream start with music studio

WHEN bandmates Adam Stevens and Josh Pritchett applied for grants to set up their own music studio they never imagined it would become a reality.

But now the musical duo from Wednesbury have proved that dreams really can come true after opening their own recording and rehearsal rooms called Splinter Studio.

By Tom Mason

The business is situated inside the historic Old Post Office building in their home town.

Splinter Studio, based in the vaults of the building in Albert Street, has received more than £8,000 in funding from the British Arts Council which Adam and Josh have since combined with £5,000 of their own money to refurbish a set of rooms that were once part of another studio run by their friend Matt Hickenbottom.

Contacted

Adam, aged 23, said: "It used to be called the post office studios and me and the band, Liberty Lies, used to use it all the time and even recorded our debut album there.

"It's always been our dream to own a studio and so we contacted the previous owner and he asked if we would be interested in taking it over."

The duo have played with the likes of established American rock band Shinedown.

They have completely stripped the studios installing a dropped ceiling to help with acoustics and investing in some of the best instruments and recording equipment for their refurbished tuition and rehearsal rooms.

"I approached quite a few business advisors and they said they had seen other people apply and that we would never get the money, so when the letter came saying we had been given the grant we were over the moon.

"It has allowed us to have our perfect job and provide an excellent space for musicians to learn, rehearse and record in the heart of Wednesbury.

"We want to just keep making it better and better."

To celebrate the opening the business partners will be holding an open day on July 5 from 1pm that will feature some of the top local bands playing live.

For more information visit www.facebook.com/SplinterStudiosUK

In the cream jumper is Josh Pritchett, aged 22, with Adam Stevens, 23, from Wednesbury, in one of the recording

Help coin it in to aid the blind

A CHARITY is urging people to recycle unwanted items to help raise funds and protect the environment from needless waste.

Beacon Centre for the Blind in Sedgley is asking for donations of foreign coins, old coins, stamps, spectacles, mobile phones, and empty laser, toner and ink cartridges.

Collection points and recycling boxes are located at all seven Beacon Centre charity shops, including at Wednesbury, and at the centre itself.

Pete Moodie, from the Beacon Centre, said: "There are a whole range of unexpected things that can be recycled which will benefit the environment and if you donate them to us, we can take advantage of them too.

"Everyone has old or unused items lying around in their homes so why not have a clear out this weekend to help raise vital funds to help visually impaired people in the region and donate them to the Beacon Centre."

Mr Moodie added: "If you recycle rather than throw away unwanted items, not only will you be helping to protect the environment, but you will also be providing funds to support visually impaired people in your local area."

For more details contact Mr Moodie on 01902 880111 or e-mail fundraising@beacon4blind.co.uk

Company's first major homes bid

WEST Midlands-based housebuilder Mar City has launched its first development featuring its factory-built homes.

Chief executive Tony Ryan told shareholders at its AGM that its modular construction methods would enable it to build 'even better homes, faster and more efficiently'.

The company, which has completed homes in West Bromwich and Wednesbury, has unveiled its first modular development at Colindale in London, of 102 apartments.

Mr Ryan said: "This modular method of construction allows the homes to be built up to three times faster than a traditional housebuild, saving time and labour costs whilst producing a build quality at least equal to, if not better than traditional methods, with a high energy efficiency rating and lower environmental footprint."

Brides-to-be fayre invite

BRIDES and husbands-to-be can head to a wedding fair taking place at a leisure centre.

The event at Portway Lifestyle Centre in Oldbury is free to enter, and will feature a wide range of stalls and a catwalk show.

The first 50 brides through the door will get a VIP goody bag, and refreshments will be available inside the fair.

The event takes place on June 22 from 11am to 4pm. Parking is free.

Are you a member of a local voluntary group?

Do you have a good news story?

Do you need to promote an event for a charity or a local good cause?

The Sandwell Chronicle needs local news stories for your local paper for you the local reader.

Please call the chronicle team on 01902 319 588

FITNESS FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

Zumba Gold is session specifically put together for those who struggle with the high impact zumba sessions. This low impact class is ideal for those who have knee troubles, and cannot jump.. or for the beginner returning back to exercise.. or the "young at heart lovelies" who still want to exercise.

Venue: The Woods Church, Coronation Road, Wednesbury
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Revamp of club hit by tragic crash starts

A MAJOR refurbishment has begun at a club which was partially destroyed in a tragic crash which killed a lorry driver.

Bosses at Wednesbury's Royal British Legion club heralded the start of work at the stricken venue as crucial to the future of the business.

One of the club's main rooms was virtually demolished as a lorry driven by polish driver, 55-year-old Henryk Jackowski, ploughed into the building on Boxing Day last year.

Mr Jackowski unfortunately died at the scene.

At the time around 15 people were inside the club and narrowly avoided serious injury.

Builders have started to make repairs to the club's popular game room which has been boarded up to make the building secure since the crash.

Officials at the club say it has cost them around £10,000 in lost revenue over the last five months.

Struggling

Leigh Jones, chairman of the Royal British Legion Wednesbury Branch said the crash had a 'big impact' on the club.

"We have seen a lot of our members who use the games room stop coming up and it's hit the club hard," he said.

"Where we once used to be busy on a Saturday and Sunday lunch time the club is now empty.

"We have been struggling to keep going.

"This is a major repair to the building that they have got to make. The crash did a lot of damage."

Workmen have begun by removing the remaining damaged brickwork that has been hidden behind wooden boards to enable them to begin putting in a new wall.

As part of the rebuild the games room that was destroyed will be enlarged to include new snooker and pool tables and much of the club will be redecorated to attract members back to the club.

The 39-year-old from Wednesbury said: "This gives us a chance to get back on our feet and recuperate some of the money we have lost over the last couple of months.

"We have been waiting a long time for this to start and it's a relief to see work beginning at last."

Mr Jones added that many members are still coming to terms with what happened, but hoped that the rebuild would help them recover.

"Having this work done will mean a lot to members. We have waited so long to have our club back," added Mr Jones.

Builders Corey Marklew and Paul Gray

Work starts on the Church Hill club

Assessing the damage at the site

The scene of the crash in December

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Making Friends

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Women seeking men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

GWENDOLINE honest, trustworthy, seeks caring gent who enjoys cinema, theatre, holidays and nights out for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412293**

DIANE voluptuous curvy and all woman, loves dancing, walking, cosy nights in, WLTM nice man for friendship, hopefully leading to something more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412321**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 366019**

SARA bored blonde looking for single gents for fun, chats and meets, looking forward to hearing from you, don't be shy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412055**

EMMA petite young looking 31yr old attractive single brunette, loves walking, talking, music, seeks honest romantic 30-40yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412037**

CHRISTINA, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. Can accommodate and will answer all calls. **Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box 410127**

ANNABELL 29 slim sophisticated well travelled interesting sensual fit brunette with lots to offer seeks older male to appreciate and treat me well. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412177**

KAREN slim, tall, attractive 36yr old normal female who likes shopping, socialising, nights in/out seeking thoughtful genuine male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412041**

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1949 Box 408297**

KIM 25yrs feminine, pretty, big blue eyes, GSOH, varied interests, likes romantic beach walks, cosy nights in, seeking honest loving man for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411777**

CAROL young 47, caring, loyal, likes music, concerts, cinema, theatre, seeks male with similar interests for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411919**

SUSIE, married, adventurous/dominant lady, 38yrs, seeks discreet man any age/area for no strings fun. **Tel: 0905 002 1945 Box 412285**

PROFESSIONAL black lady, likes cooking, music, countryside, seeking honest, reliable gent, possibly farmer for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411763**

VICKY 37yr professional, mum to one, sensual and very attractive, looking for a real man, tall, fit, sincere and passionate to enjoy each other's company. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411695**

LUCY beautiful busty bubbly blonde 32yrs, seeking naughty boy to enjoy the fun side of life with, age, status and looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411691**

CAROL slim attractive blonde, sporty, easy going, broadminded looking for likeminded male with plenty of va va voom, 35-45. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 409717**

LINDA single and living alone, attractive, young looking, bubbly, WLTM similar young at heart companion to be close with, enjoy chats and romantic dates. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410119**

WIDOW 68, 5ft 5ins, medium build, attractive, likes walks, reading, holidays, seeks sincere, N/S male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411745**

JEAN young at heart lady, active, 70 plus, N/S, GSOH, likes walks, gardening, outings, WLTM sincere, caring male, 69-74 for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411711**

TINA sexy black female looking for healthy distractions with fun adult companion, interested? You won't be disappointed, give me a call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411519**

LYNNE young looking attractive Indian female with GSOH and down to earth attitude, looking for likeminded male for date nights, hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411219**

EMMIE 50, attractive brunette, 5ft 3ins, OHAC, likes country walks, music, reading, seeks genuine, friendly, professional male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411281**

RETIRED happy, caring, attractive female, likes gardening, travel, animals, comedy, seeks tall, funny, kind chap, Shropshire. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411459**

RITA naughty 40's petite pretty female looking for that special man in my life, any age, to get to know and see what happens, you only live once remember! **0906 500 3955 Box No: 410959**

SUE 34, likes most things in life, even football! Looking for my Mr Wonderful thought I would give this a try. Come on what do we have to loose, call me. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 410765**

SUSAN 64, lively, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411329**

Men seeking women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

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ELEGANT very attractive slim black lady 5ft 5ins tall, divorced seeking a real gentleman for respectable quality times. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4400011**

TONY 52, dark hair, white male, 6ft, confident, GSOH, seeks black female. Genuine ad. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412481**

MALE WLTM pear shaped lady, 50-65. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411109**

TALL 42yr old sincere male, caring, honest, loving, seeking female, 30-40 for fun, friendship and good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412483**

COUNTRY loving businessman, honest, medium build, N/S, OHAC, seeks professional, genuine, caring, honest, N/S female for loving relationship, 45-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412445**

ALAN tall widower, 76, looking for female of similar age who enjoys meals out, holidays, walks and holidays. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412261**

ROY mid 60's, N/S, car driver, young outlook, seeks lady for friendship. West Bromwich area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412083**

TALL slim gent, 60, seeks slim, attractive lady for no strings relationship. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412227**

IAN 65, romantic, likes to wine/dine, days out, seeking younger female for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412087**

MARK fun loving, easy going, fair hair blue eyes, athletic, tanned, looking for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411989**

FIT bubbly male, athletic, blue eyes, short fair hair, easy going, loving, GSOH, seeking female for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411901**

TIGER Woods lookalike, seeking pretty BBW for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411801**

TALL attractive Shrewsbury male, 54, seeks attractive female for fun and excitement in the daytime. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411823**

MALE 74, fit, N/S, OHAC, seeks slim lady of similar age for days out, holidays and walks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411673**

TALL mature male, seeks younger, attractive mixed race lady for spoiling and pampering. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411505**

EASY going male 45, likes sports, seeks female for relationship. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411541**

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Liz dedicated to helping blood disorder sufferers

MANAGING patients with chronic disease is a difficult task, but getting them through their pain management and back home in the same day is harder still.

Liz Green, aged 41, from Kings Heath, is the Lead Nurse for Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia (SCaT) at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust.

She looks after patients from Sandwell and Birmingham in the regional centre aimed specifically at providing treatment for the conditions.

Both are inherited blood disorders.

Sickle cell disease causes patients pain when their red blood cells clump together preventing oxygen from getting to tissue.

Philosophy

Due to the effects of Thalassaemia, patients need to go through blood transfusions every four weeks and require lifelong medication to help rid their body of excess iron.

She said: "We see around 450 to 500 patients and are unique in offering patients pain management in a day case, meaning patients can go home after treatment.

"We work well as a team to help patients with chronic illness and all follow the same philosophy that we want patients to live as full a life as possible.

"We see a range of ages from adolescents to the elderly in our unit, and it feels great when we see them having babies and it is a real privilege for us to share these moments with them."

The Trust has been offering flexible drop in clinics for SCaT for almost a decade, and is the only regional centre to offer this service to patients.

Liz commented: "I am proud of the unit, the patients and the team.

"I am proud of how well the team gets on together and with our work."

Liz worked as a nurse in Oxford and London before returning home to Birmingham to work after being inspired to go into nursing while observing her Grandmother's work. Her next challenge is set up a conference for her patients.

She said: "Staff go to conferences where we learn about the latest research and treatment, and I feel that it would be greats for patients to have a conference to go to where they can find out the latest information regarding their condition."

Away from work, Liz is very busy looking after her two children, seven-year-old Edward and Matilda, who is four.

She also finds time to go running and sewing, creating dresses and cushion covers.

NHS HEROES

ONCE again we focus some of our time on the quiet heroes who come from a wide variety of backgrounds, doing a wide variety of jobs, in one of the Black Country's largest NHS organisations – Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust.

It employs 7,500 people, many of whom live locally.

Last year, the trust saw a patient on a face-to-face basis one and a half million times giving care from 150 locations.

This week we highlight:

Lead Nurse for Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia – LIZ GREEN

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Mattress Sold Separately
L-104cm, W-78cm, H-96cm
Available in Antique Pine & White
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Latifs Price: 59p
Max 15 purchases
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Retail Price: ~~£99.99~~
Latifs Price: £59.99
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Sandwell age UK

Volunteer with Age UK Sandwell

Kitchen Volunteer
Assisting with the preparation of meals, serving meals and general cleaning.

Activity Volunteer
Setting up activities in Day Room, assisting with mobility, serving meals and chatting with service users.

Admin/Customer Service Volunteer
Helping in the reception area , taking telephone calls and general administration tasks.

Information & Advice Volunteer
Assisting the Manager with delivering an advice service from our Drop in centre in West Bromwich. Applications from professional people or those with legal services experience are welcome.

Visiting and Befriending Volunteer
Empathetic and compassionate people required to visit older people in their own homes providing companionship and low level support.

Day Care Minibus drivers and escorts
3 days 9am -11am and 3pm - 5pm 4 hours each day MIDAS /PAT training required, which can be arranged for suitable candidates. Full clean driving licence with D1 authorisation essential.

Fundraising
Our services rely on donations, grants and fundraising to support older people.
Anyone with experience or interest in helping us to raise money should apply.

The new name for AGE Concern Sandwell

Registered charity number 1080517
IDBBOS045 1/12

Community Support Volunteer
We also need people to help us to run activities e.g. Bowling groups, IT sessions and Friendship groups.

For all above opportunities please call our Admin team on 0121 500 1860 to request an application pack.

Age UK Sandwell
e daycare@ageuksandwell.org.uk
e info@ageuksandwell.org.uk

www.ageuksandwell.org.uk

Young landlubbers ahoy at museum!

Museum assistant John Hadley at the Manor House Museum, where they were holding a Pirate themed fun day

SHIVER me timbers – a museum in the Black Country is recovering this week, after facing a pirate onslaught from youngsters.

As the half-term holiday kicked off around 50 youngsters visited Manor House Museum in West Bromwich for a day of pirate-themed Hideous History crafts.

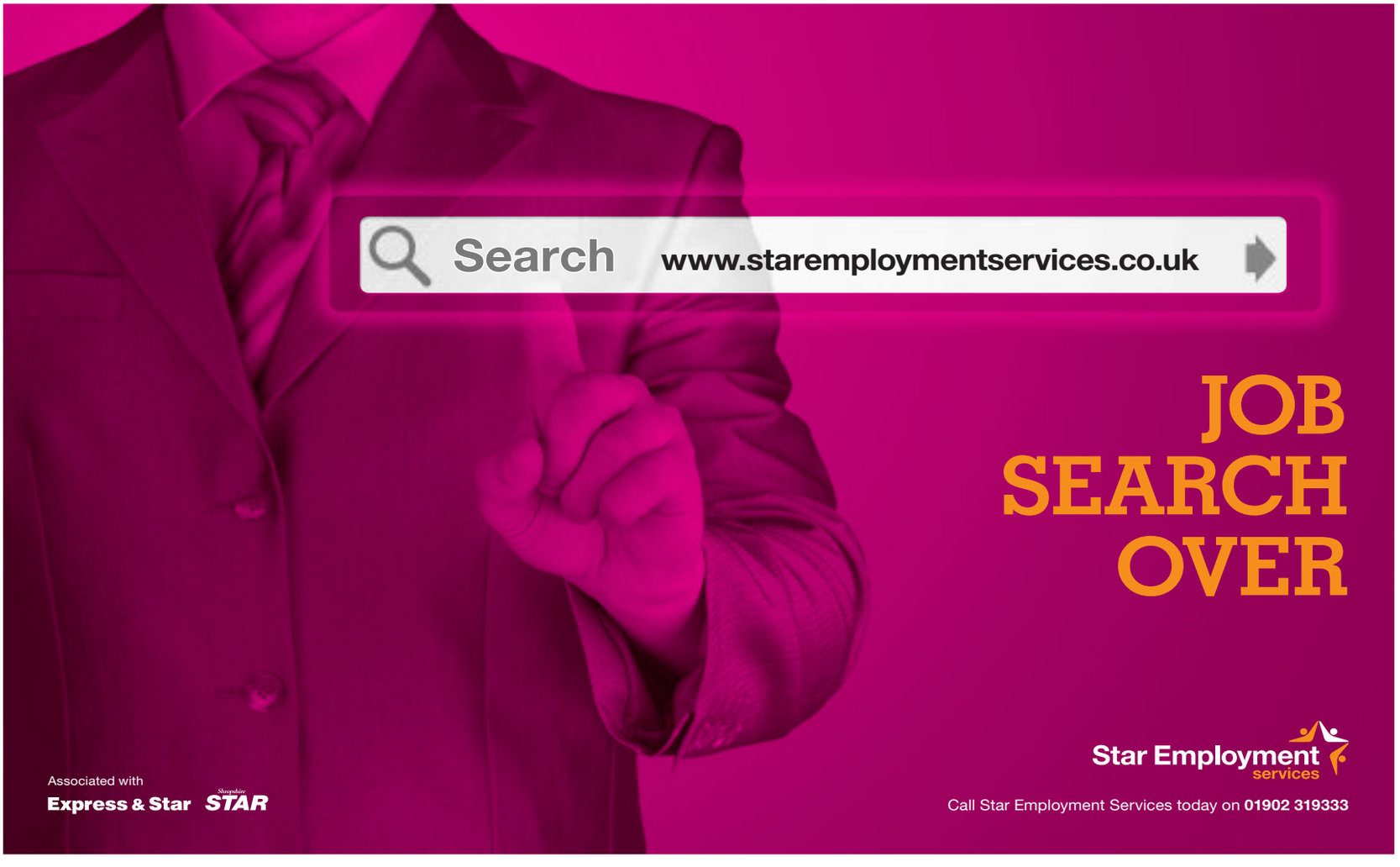
They made treasure chests, masks, door hangers and other goodies on Monday to prepare for the main event at the museum on Wednesday – a pirates mini fun day. Museum assistant Bethany Smith said: "The children had a lot of fun, they all went away with a lot of goodies, and the staff had a smashing time as well."

The event is part of Sandwell Museums' Hideous Histories initiative, which will feature a number of events throughout the summer designed to teach children about different periods of history.

The special days start at Manor House, on Hall Green Road, on Wednesday, July 30 with a medieval day from 11am to 3pm. They then run every Wednesday until August 27 with a session about the Tudors.

Miss Smith said: "It is our version of Horrible Histories, so there will be crafts, workshops, and story telling."

Participating children will also be given a Hideous Histories 'passport', which they can get stamped every time they attend one of the events. If they get enough stamps, they will then be entered into a prize draw.



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Residents told to try scheme for lower bills

THOUSANDS of residents in Sandwell have been urged to try and get better gas and electricity deals as part of a money-saving scheme from the council.

The Energy Switch scheme, which helps residents to get a better deal from suppliers, works by getting together a large number of people who want to change suppliers.

by Simon Stone

And to attract even more people to the scheme, the council has trained up tenant and resident associations and community groups so they can give advice and help register residents.

Councillor Ian Jones, Sandwell's jobs and economy boss, said it was important to make sure hard-to-reach groups were also able to benefit from the initiative.

He said: "By working with a wide range of community organisations and residents groups, we can better reach vulnerable people and enable them to take advantage of schemes like the Sandwell Energy Switch."

Sandwell Council has run three previous Energy Switches with nearly 4,000 people registering their interest and many saving hundreds of pounds a year on energy bills.

And the scheme is open to people living outside of Sandwell, as anyone can use the council's website to sign up to the scheme and see how much they can save. Once the registration period closes, those who have signed up will receive an offer and then decide whether or not to take it.

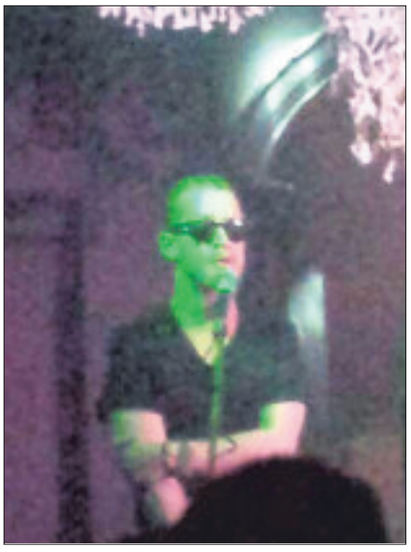
Households have until June 10 to register their interest in the scheme.

To complete the online form you will need a copy of your latest gas and electricity bill to hand.

Visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/energyswitch to sign up now. For more information call 0121 569 5555.

Other councils have also run similar schemes.

From Home Alone to Hare and Hounds



So far a good reception for Macaulay Culkin with his band The Pizza Underground at the Hare and Hounds

HE is the Home Alone child star whose films were loved by a generation. Macauley Culkin swapped Hollywood for Birmingham as his band performed a bizarre pizza-pun show to a sell-out crowd.

The actor's band The Pizza Underground was at Birmingham's Hare and Hounds pub last night.

And despite storming off stage at his gig in Manchester this week and being booed off stage in Nottingham, the band's Birmingham show went far more smoothly.

The Kings Heath crowd lapped up the weird collection of dark sunglasses, crude jokes, pizza box instruments and cat pictures. ore than 150 people headed to the Hare and Hounds, which in April welcomed actress Keira Knightley, for the gig. he comedy band, which rewrites the lyrics of Velvet Underground songs to be about pizza, performed just a handful of songs and one Kazoo solo from the nineties actor, which went without a hitch and no storming off stage was required.

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It's ale change with clear new vision for shop

Customers and staff seen during the official opening of the Church View Vision Centre, in Old Hill High Sreet, Cradley, in premises which were previously a pub

CUSTOMERS will have to get used to a different type of glasses as the ribbon was cut to official open a new opticians at the site of a former pub.

Staff and dignitaries were all smiles as the Church View Vision centre launched in Old Hill ready to welcome new customers.

The building has been transformed from a pub, formerly known as Satchmos, which had lain empty for several months. The bar and seating areas inside the building, on the corner of Halesowen Road and Priest Street, were stripped out.

A complete new decoration, all in a eye-catching orange and green colour scheme were completed in time for the opened earlier this month. The opticians is linked with the neighbouring Church View Pharmacy under the management of directors Tariq Mahmood and Shahid Latif.

And bosses have been working hard over the past few weeks ready for the official opening to the public.

They enlisted the support of ward councillor Ann Shackleton who attended to do the honours and cut the ribbon to the delight of staff. The opticians features an area to conduct eye tests, a consultation area and room to select a host of frames.

Front, Lynda Roberts and Cllr Ann Shackleton, centre, Siamah Syed and Rahila Ahmed, back, Abbas Fazal, Tariq Mahmood and Shahid Latif

Centre manager Lynda Roberts had been taken on alongside optical assistant Siamah Syed and opthalmic optician Rahila Ahmed.

Lynda, aged 48, said: "The opticians looks fantastic and we were so pleased that Ann agreed to come along and doing the opening for us. There has been a lot of work that has gone into getting us to this stage over the last few months including completely changing the old parts of the pub."

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Eight days departures November 2014 to March 2015

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Two tours are included during the holiday. The first is a half day tour of Funchal, Madeira's capital taking in the market, the Patricio and Gouveia embroidery workshop, Se Cathedral and the Pereira d'Oliveira wine cellar with a tasting of four Madeiran wines.

Highlights of the full day western Madeira tour include the wine-making village of Estreito de Câmara de Lobos; the church in Ribeira Brava; a visit to a banana plantation; the Paul da Serra central plateau – a UNESCO World Heritage Site; plus the famous Laurisilva laurel forests.

There is also a half day Quintas Garden tour comprising the botanical garden of Quinta do Bom Sucesso with 35,000m² of grounds and an enormous variety of tropical plants and birds, as well as the Quinta Jardins do Lago, with its 2.5 hectares of blooms.

Three free days to explore at leisure are also on the itinerary along with the chance to join an optional tour.

INFO

- Return flights
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Two days departing July 19

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*£40 discount for children under 15

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The Tall Ships Regatta at Royal Greenwich

Two days departing September 6

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- Return coach travel
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- Visit to Royal Windsor
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Isle of Wight and Osborne House

Three days departing September 26

PRICE FROM £179

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- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Osborne House and Queen Victoria's private beach
- Visits to Yarmouth, Alum Bay, Godshill, Newport and Ryde
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Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Buckingham Palace and the Houses of Parliament

Two days departing Aug 9 and Sept 27

PRICE FROM £139

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- Entrance and guided tour of the Houses of Parliament
- Free time in London
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Yorkshire Cruise and Steam

Three days departing September 26

PRICE FROM £169

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- Two nights half-board accommodation
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- Journey on the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway
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Certain entrance fees payable locally
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Certain entrance fees payable locally
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The Battlefields of World War One

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- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
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Kloot singer in solo gig at Robin

ONE of Guy Garvey of Elbow's favourite singer/songwriters, Mancunian John Bramwell, from Mercury Music Prize nominated trio I Am Kloot, is in concert at Bilston's Robin 2 venue on Wednesday, June 11.

With a knack for eloquent melancholy, Bramwell has fronted I Am Kloot since 1999 and the group has released six studio albums, three of them produced by Garvey. Bramwell has a new live solo album, Live At The Trades, out.

I Am Kloot also wrote music for BBC TV drama From There To Here.

Bramwell's seated show starts at 8.30pm and tickets cost £15 in advance (£16 door). Call 01902 401211.

Solihull is to go psychedelic

THE festival season is under way with new event the Lunar Festival taking place on the rural fringe of Birmingham this weekend.

The line up shows a tendency towards psychedelic and folk music with headliners including British Sea Power tomorrow night, 1960s Sunshine Superman Donovan on Saturday and Texan collective The Polyphonic Spree on Sunday. Acts also include Tim Burgess of The Charlatans, Temples and Scott Matthews from Wolverhampton. It's at the Umberslade Estate at Tanworth in Arden, near Solihull. See lunarfestival.co.uk.

Happy Days are here again as the Fonz bursts into song

Paolo's Scottish passion

Paolo Nutini, Wolverhampton Civic Hall

SCOTTISH singer-songwriter Paolo Nutini has made the transition from scruffy teenaged charmer to a soul singer. Hunched over his microphone, eyes half-closed, his sandpaper and velvet vocal oozed passion as fans soaked up songs from a three album career that began with These Streets in 2006.

The five year gap between Sunny Side Up and his latest, Caustic Love, did plenty to whet the appetite as the 27-year-old performed for a full house on Friday. The soul numbers really impressed, including Better Man, Diana and, dedicated to his mother, Looking For Something. The set closed with the fervent Iron Sky then Nutini returned for a mash up of Jenny Don't Be Hasty with New Shoes, ending aptly with Last Request. LB

Soulful singing from Paolo Nutini seen in concert at Wolverhampton Civic Hall

IT'S a big week for musicals coming up with a new show based on a much-loved TV series from the 1970s and a Rodgers and Hammerstein classic.

Sugababe Heide Range, Emmerdale's Ben Freeman and Eurovision winner Cheryl Baker will be joining forces for Happy Days: A New Musical, bringing the King of Cool Arthur 'The Fonz' Fonzarelli to the stage at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Monday to Saturday.

West End leading man Freeman will be putting on the leather jacket and stepping into Henry Winkler's biker boots as Fonzie, Bucks Fizz singer Miss Baker will be Mrs Cunningham and Miss Range the glamorous Pinky Tuscadero in musical set in rock 'n' roll era America.

The rest of the Cunningham clan and other favourite characters from the series, including Ralph, Potsie and Chachi, feature in a story about them trying to save their beloved diner Arnold's from demolition.

The show has been written by creator of the original TV show Garry Marshall, who has also become a top movie director with such hits as Pretty Woman, Beaches and The Princess Diaries 1 and 2. The original music is from Paul Williams, the creator of Bugsy Malone and songwriter of some of The Carpenters' biggest hits. Original Fonze, Henry Winkler, is a creative consultantto ensure it gets the Fonzie thumbs up.

The stars of Happy Days

The second city's own Birmingham Musical Theatre Company head for Bali Hai when they stage South Pacific at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday. The show featuring such songs as There Is Nothing Like A Dame, Happy Talk and Some Enchanted Evening has Abigail Wells as Nellie Forbush.

Stage is set for poweful dramas

SHAKESPEARE theatre group Propeller perform A Midsummer Night's Dream today and on Saturday evening at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre. Then A Comedy of Errors tomorrow night and at Saturday matinee.

Birmingham Rep hosts a play about domestic violence, Stay, at sold-out venue The Door on Monday. Pests by Vivienne Franzmann, about drug-addict sisters, is staged at The Door from Wednesday to Saturday.

Tangible Things, a new play by Matt Beames, shows a modern man in rebellion against the electronic age at Wolverhampton University's Arena Theatre tomorrow and Saturday evening.

Soul Legend with a date at the NIA

SOUL singer John Legend has announced a Birmingham concert as part of his UK tour this autumn.

The Grammy award winner has topped the charts in his native US and scored a top ten hit in the UK with the single All Of Me with his fourth album, Love In The Future, selling over half a million units in the UK.

He will be at Birmingham NIA on Sunday, October 12, where tickets range in price from £37.10, £42.70 & £56.70.

Tickets available at www.theticketfactory.com or 0844 338 8000.

CHOICE

Ant & Dec

Britain's Got Talent: Live Final
(ITV, 7pm)
After weeks of tough auditions and five fiercely competitive semi-finals, the national talent search comes to a close as the remaining contestants perform one last time. The hopefuls all have one simple aim – to win a coveted slot at this year's Royal Variety Performance and get their hands on the £250,000 cash prize. All they have to do is impress the voting public, as the opinions of judges Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon count for nothing - who wins is entirely down to the viewers at home. Plus, Little Mix perform their new single Salute with a special routine by Diversity, and there's also music by another big-name act. Presented by Ant and Dec. Last in the series.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nigellissima. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.00** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Wigan Warriors v Castleford Tigers (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** A Question of Sport. (R) **5.00** Live Formula 1: Canadian Grand Prix Qualifying. Coverage from the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in Montreal (Start-time 6.00pm).
7.20 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
7.40 Pointless Celebrities: World Cup Special. Alexander Armstrong hosts an edition featuring contestants with links to the famous football tournament. The pairs are English World Cup-winning duo Geoff Hurst and George Cohen, Peter Shilton and Steve Bull, who both represented England in 1990's tournament, former footballer Graeme Le Saux and commentator Jonathan Pearce, and Hope Powell and Casey Stoney, representing the women's game. All are trying to score the fewest points possible by giving the least obvious correct answers to questions posed to 100 people before the show and win big for their chosen charities. Last in the series.
8.30 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Dale Winton hosts the quiz in which five contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize. Jenni Falconer presents the Lotto and Thunderball draws.
9.20 Casualty. A fire in a care home for the elderly puts Rita on the spot, Lily helps a man with toothache face up to the real cause of his pain and Connie questions Zoe's competence.
10.10 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.
10.30 Mrs Brown's Boys. Dermot's pre-marriage nerves get the better of him, so he locks himself away in a cupboard. (R)
11.00 Live at the Apollo. Andy Parsons hosts the stand-up show recorded at London's Hammersmith Apollo, inviting comedians Andrew Lawrence and Milton Jones to share their light-hearted views on modern life. (R)
11.30 Film: Poseidon. (2006) Remake of 1970s disaster movie The Poseidon Adventure, starring Kurt Russell and Richard Dreyfuss.
1.00 Weatherview. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.10 Film:** They Live By Night. (1948) **7.45** Great British Menu. (R) **8.45** Great British Menu. (R) **9.45** World Cup Films. **11.20** Wimbledon Classics. **1.20** Formula 1: Canadian Grand Prix Second Practice. **2.55** Live Formula 1: Canadian Grand Prix Third Practice. **4.05** Walrus: Two Tonne Tusker – Natural World. (R) **5.05** Antiques Road Trip. (R)
6.05 Flog It! Michael Baggott and Philip Serrell value antiques in Barnsley, South Yorkshire, while Paul Martin heads for a mill to learn about James Lewis's large snuff-box collection. (R)
7.00 The Summer Exhibition: BBC Arts at the Royal Academy. Kirsty Wark, Alastair Sooke and Morgan Quaintance attend the private view of the open-entry art show, talking to artists Bob and Roberta Smith, Conrad Shawcross and Yinka Shonibare.
8.00 Yes, Prime Minister. Jim gets wind of a major financial scandal in the City that is bound to have damaging repercussions for the government. With the party conference looming, he decides it's time for him to take swift and firm action – but Sir Humphrey has other ideas. (R)
8.30 I Love 1980. Actor Larry Hagman presents a look back at the highs and lows of the year's pop culture, including the shooting of his character JR in Dallas and the success of musical Fame. (R)
10.00 French and Saunders. Comedy sketches and parodies by comedy duo Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders. (R)
10.30 Victoria Wood as Seen on TV. Comedy sketches written by and starring Victoria Wood, with Julie Walters, Celia Imrie, Duncan Preston and Susie Blake. (R)
11.00 TOTP2: Duran Duran Special. Mark Radcliffe introduces memorable Top of the Pops performances by Duran Duran, including Girls on Film, My Own Way, Hungry Like the Wolf, Rio, The Reflex, Wild Boys and Notorious. (R)
11.30 TOTP2: Wham! Special. Mark Radcliffe introduces a selection of Top of the Pops performances by the duo, including Club Tropicana, Bad Boys, Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go, Freedom and Edge of Heaven. (R)
12.00 Film: Deadly Pursuit. (1988) **1.45** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Adventure Time. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **12.25** Storage Hoarders. (R) **1.30** Live French Open Tennis. John Inverdale presents coverage of the women's singles final from Roland Garros, where the second Grand Slam tournament of the year takes place. Subsequent programmes subject to change. Coverage continues on ITV4.**5.35** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.45** ITV News; Weather.
6.00 Let Me Entertain You. Viewers' videos for Taylor Swift and Rizzle Kicks hits. Last in the series.
6.30 New You've Been Framed! Comedian Harry Hill puts his own spin on viewers' clips. Tonight, exploding toilets, airborne chainsaws and a cat that can play the drums, plus a rare glimpse of Darth Vader on the loo.
7.00 Britain's Got Talent: Live Final. The remaining acts face their biggest challenge yet as they perform for public votes one final time, and Little Mix sing Salute with a routine by Diversity. Last in the series.
9.30 Live International Football. England v Honduras (Kick-off 9.45pm). Coverage of the friendly at the Sunlife Stadium in Miami, as England play their final match before their World Cup opener against Italy. England have never met tonight's opponents before, but will be looking to put in a strong performance against one of the lesser-experienced sides participating in the tournament in Brazil, which begins on Thursday. While Roy Hodgson's men will expect a morale-boosting result, the Hondurans will also see this encounter as ideal preparation for the tournament, having been drawn in Group E alongside France, Switzerland and Ecuador, with their first match being against the French on June 15. Presented by Adrian Chiles, with commentary by Clive Tyldesley and Andy Townsend, and analysis from Glenn Hoddle, Lee Dixon and Ian Wright.
12.15 ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The Hoobs. (R) **6.30** Trans World Sport. **7.30** The Grid. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Weekend Kitchen. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Derby. Including the 4.00 Investec Derby (1m 4f). **4.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.25** Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.00 Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.30 Channel 4 News.
7.00 The Restoration Man. George Clarke revisits retired police officer Mark Rand and his wife Pat, who took on the restoration of the Grade II-listed water tower at Settle station in North Yorkshire. Two years after the project started, the architect wants to see if the couple have succeeded in transforming the tower into a suitable home. He also meets train enthusiast and former politician Michael Portillo, who was instrumental in saving the Settle to Carlisle line during his tenure as transport minister. Last in the series. (R)
8.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud meets Tim and Philomena O'Donovan, who are trying to convert a lifeboat station in Tenby, Pembrokeshire, into a contemporary home and preserve the historic building for posterity. A weather-worn, rusting and rotting hulk that was never designed for habitation, it is perched on a steel pier 40ft above the sea and can only be reached by crossing the sandy beach at low tide. (R)
9.00 Film: My Sister's Keeper. (2009) A couple whose daughter develops leukaemia have a second child to eventually provide a donor organ for her sister. However, as the younger child enters her teens and learns why she was born, she rejects the arrangement and hires a lawyer to seek legal separation from her parents. Drama, starring Cameron Diaz.
11.05 Channel 4's Comedy Gala 2014. Entertainment extravaganza from the O2 in aid of Great Ormond Street Hospital, with an all-star line-up featuring Adam Hills, John Bishop, Aisling Bea, Jo Brand and Kevin Bridges. (R)
1.35 Film: Reno 911!: Miami. (2007) **3.00** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.05** SuperScrimpers. (R) **5.20** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers Megaforce. (R) **10.35** Access. **10.50** The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) **11.50** Big Brother: Power Trip Launch. (R) **1.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.15** NCIS Movie: Judgement Day. (R) **4.00 Film:** Columbo: Ransom for a Dead Man. (1971) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk.
6.00 Film: Jesse Stone: Innocents Lost. (2011) The police chief is forced into retirement, but continues his own discreet investigations into the death of a teenage girl and a convicted murderer he believes to be innocent. Meanwhile, his former colleagues on the force struggle to cope with his replacement. Detective thriller, starring Tom Selleck and Kathy Baker. Edited for violence.
7.35 5 News Weekend.
7.40 NCIS. A marine is found with a gunshot wound six years after disappearing in Afghanistan, and the team discovers he vanished while carrying out an undercover mission. (R)
8.35 NCIS. The agents reluctantly team up with the coast guard to investigate the apparent murder of a Navy diver who was trying to recover a sunken ship and its treasure. With Mark Harmon. (R)
9.30 Big Brother: Power Trip. Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.
10.30 Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. Rylan Clark and Iain Lee analyse the housemates' behaviour, with the help of psychologists, body-language experts and new regular panellist Luisa Zissman.
11.30 Street Crime UK: Caught on Camera. Nick Wallis joins police forces across the nation to discover how CCTV and technological advances are helping to fight the huge rise in street crime. (R)
11.55 Access.
12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** Illegal Immigrant & Proud. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **7.30** Doctor Who **8.15** Top Gear **9.20 Film:** Father of the Bride Part II (1995) **11.00** Family Guy **12.50** American Dad! **1.35** Backchat World Cup Special **2.20** Badults **2.50** Russell Howard's Good News **3.20** Sweat the Small Stuff **3.50** Great TV Mistakes **4.00** Close
BBC Four
7.00 Amazon Abyss **8.00** The Story of Science – Power, Proof and Passion **9.00** Wallander **10.25** Rome's Lost Empire **11.55** Top of the Pops: 1979 **12.40** The Genius of David Bowie **1.40** Amazon Abyss **2.40** The Story of Science – Power, Proof and Passion **3.40** Close
ITV2
11.55 Farewell Tina **12.25** Take Me Out **1.35** I Wanna Marry "Harry" **3.30** You've Been Framed! **4.35 Film:** Twister (1996) **6.50 Film:** Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi (1983) **9.30** Britain's Got More Talent **10.30** TV OD **11.00 Film:** Shaun of the Dead (2004) **1.05** Viral Tap **1.45** Britain's Got More Talent **2.35** You've Been Framed! **3.00** Teleshopping
ITV3
1.00 Agatha Christie's Marple **3.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **1.05** Judge Judy **1.50** Movies Now **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
1.40 Magnum, PI **2.40 Film:** Dunkirk (1958) **5.30** Live French Open Tennis. Continued coverage of the day's play at Roland Garros. **7.00** Hornblower **9.00** TT 2014 **10.00 Film:** A Dangerous Man (2010) **12.00** Grand Prix Racer **1.00** TT 2014 **2.00** Nitro Circus **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **5.00** Teleshopping
E4
12.00 How I Met Your Mother **2.00** The Big Bang Theory **3.00** Made in Chelsea **4.00** Youngers **4.35** Rude(ish) Tube **5.30** How I Met Your Mother **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** The Tomorrow People **9.00 Film:** Black Knight (2001) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory **11.55** The Inbetweeners **1.00** How I Met Your Mother **2.00** The Ricky Gervais Show **3.00** The Cleveland Show **3.45** Glee **4.30** Ugly Betty
Film4
1.00 Meet Dave (2008) **2.55** Star Trek: The Motion Picture (1979) **5.40** The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (2008) **8.50** Grace of Monaco Interview Special **9.00** Priest (2011) **10.45** Sorority Row (2009) **12.40** Weekender (2011) **2.25** Ils (2006) **4.00** Close

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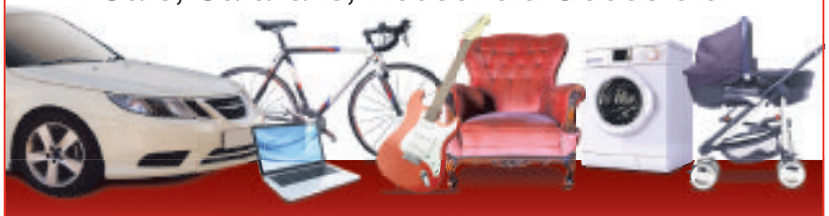

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CHOICE

Dermot O'Leary

Soccer Aid 2014 (ITV, 6pm)
Dermot O'Leary presents the pre-match build-up and the big game in aid of Unicef, which sees footballing heroes team up with celebrities for an England v Rest of the World match live from Old Trafford (Kick-off 8.00pm). Robbie Williams captains the England team, managed by Sam Allardyce and featuring former professionals such as David Seaman, Teddy Sheringham and Jamie Redknapp, plus stars including Jack Whitehall and Olly Murs. Jose Mourinho manages the opposing side, which calls upon the talents of Alessandro Del Piero, Andriy Shevchenko and other pros, lining up with captain Michael Sheen and a squad featuring Gordon Ramsay and James McAvoy. Kirsty Gallacher is pitchside with the players.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Pentecost 2014. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Countryfile. (R) **2.15** Best of Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.40** Flog It! (R) **3.20** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.10** Points of View. **4.25** Songs of Praise. **5.00** Countryfile.

6.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.20 Live Formula 1: Canadian Grand Prix. Coverage of the seventh round of the season, staged at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in Montreal (Start-time 7.00pm). Michael Schumacher has won this race on seven occasions, with Lewis Hamilton the most successful of the current drivers, and the Mercedes man will be heavily fancied to win here for the fourth time and continue his title charge. Presented by Suzi Perry, with commentary by Ben Edwards and David Coulthard.

9.00 Quirke. As his family life unravels, and grief and drink begin to take their toll, the pathologist is more than receptive to a request from his daughter Phoebe, who asks for his help in the search for her missing friend April, who hasn't been seen in more than a week. He begins to fear she has come to harm when he discovers blood in her flat, but when he tells her well-connected family, the Latimers, their response is not what he was expecting and they close ranks. Quirke pursues his enquiries and finds himself in a world where race and class are the determining factors. Last in the series.

10.30 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.55 Kris: Dying to Live. Documentary following Kris Hallenga, who was diagnosed with terminal breast cancer at the age of 23, as she battles her illness and promotes her charity Coppafeel!

11.55 Film: Taken in Broad Daylight. (2009) A teenage girl who is kidnapped and held hostage for six days. However, far from cracking up during her traumatic experience, she keeps her wits about her, manipulating her captor and leaving subtle clues for the police to ensure rescue as the abductor moves her across state lines. Fact-based thriller, with Sara Canning, James Van Der Beek, LeVar Burton and Diana Reis.

1.15 Weatherview. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Film: Desert Passage. (1952) **7.00 Film:** Wagon Train. (1940) **8.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** World Cup Films. **10.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **12.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **2.00** Great British Menu. (R) **3.00** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Bradford Bulls v Warrington Wolves (Kick-off 3.30pm). **5.30** Inspire: The Olympic Journey. Gabby Logan spends a day with England hockey captain Kate Richardson-Walsh.

6.00 Ice Age Giants. Alice Roberts examines the latest discoveries from the northern hemisphere to shed light on the lives and habitats of the creatures that dominated the planet 40,000 years ago. She begins by heading to North America, which was home to a diverse group of giant mammals, and discovers how the sabre-toothed cat's out-sized teeth were vital for hunting, yet easily broken. Alice looks at evidence of the bear-sized Shasta ground sloth in a cave in the Grand Canyon, and learns about the strange armadillo-like glyptodont – which was the size of a small car. (R)

7.00 Tropic of Cancer. Leg three of Simon Reeve's journey takes him from the banks of the Nile in Egypt to the edge of the Indian Ocean in Oman, introducing him to nomadic Bedouins displaced by drought. (R)

8.00 I Bought a Rainforest. Charlie Hamilton James's wife Philippa Forrester flies out to raise his spirits, and the cameraman joins two locals on a four-day mission to illegally fell a giant hardwood tree.

9.00 Wildfires 2014: Inside the Inferno. Part one of two. Kate Humble and Simon Reeve travel to Australia to discover how the New South Wales Rural Fire Service contends with as many as 100 fires a day.

10.00 QI XL. Extended edition. Jo Brand, Graham Linehan and Jimmy Carr join regular panellist Alan Davies as host Stephen Fry asks a range of unusual questions on the topic of knowledge. (R)

10.45 Film: Adventureland. (2009) A college graduate falls in love while spending a summer working at a ramshackle amusement park in the 1980s. Comedy, with Jesse Eisenberg.

12.25 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.20** Holby City. (R) **2.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Deadtime Stories. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** May the Best House Win. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** Love Your Garden. (R) **12.30** Fool Britannia. Hidden-camera pranks, with Dom Joly. (R) **1.00** Let Me Entertain You. Viewers' videos for Taylor Swift and Rizzle Kicks hits, Cher impersonators and a musical showdown between wedding guests and chicken-shop workers. Last in the series. (R) **1.30** Live French Open Tennis. The men's singles final. Coverage of the conclusion of the second Grand Slam tournament of the season, staged at Roland Garros in Paris. Last year's final was a relatively tame affair, as Rafael Nadal won an eighth title by beating Spanish compatriot David Ferrer 6-3, 6-2, 6-3, having been pushed all the way by Novak Djokovic in his epic semi-final. Presented by John Inverdale, with commentary by Nick Mullins, reports by Celina Hinchcliffe and analysis by Jim Courier, Mark Petchey and Fabrice Santoro. Subsequent programmes subject to change. Coverage continues on ITV4. **5.45** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.50** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 Soccer Aid 2014. Robbie Williams and Michael Sheen captain the pro-celebrity teams for the charity football match, live from Old Trafford, as England take on the Rest of the World (Kick-off 8.00pm).

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Film: Atonement. (2007) In 1935, 13-year-old Briony Tallis discovers the burgeoning relationship between her older sister Cecilia and Robbie Turner, a servant's son whom she has a crush on herself. The teenager becomes increasingly jealous of the pair and spitefully accuses him of a crime he did not commit, unaware her actions will have tragic repercussions. Joe Wright's romantic period drama, based on Ian McEwan's novel, starring Keira Knightley, James McAvoy, Brenda Blethyn, Saoirse Ronan and Romola Garai.

12.40 The Store. Home shopping. **2.40** Motorsport UK. Highlights from Donington Park. **3.30** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service. **4.15** May the Best House Win. (R) **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The Hoobs. (R) **6.40** Transvulcania. **7.05** British GT. **7.30** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Secret Eaters. (R) **1.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.35** The Simpsons. (R) **3.05 Film:** Beaches. (1988) Drama, starring Bette Midler and Barbara Hershey. **5.35** Deal or No Deal.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Four Rooms. The dealers battle it out over a Cold War code-breaking machine, some one-off photos of rock star Pete Doherty's house and a sci-fi sculpture. Can they also be coaxed into splashing out on a tantric figure and a rare Russian nude painting? Meeting each potential buyer in a separate room, the sellers must judge when to part with their valuable items and when to reject an offer. Presented by Anita Rani.

8.00 Born in the Wild. New series. Veterinary surgeon Mark Evans and comparative anatomist Joy Reidenberg explore the world of animal reproduction, looking at how different species find and attract a mate, give birth and raise their young in hostile habitats. In South Africa, Mark investigates how male elephants find females in vast home ranges, while in the Okavango Delta in Botswana, Joy sets up night-vision cameras for a rare look at the birth of a calf. The programme also reveals why these animals have the longest pregnancy of any mammal and how quickly a newborn takes its first steps.

9.00 Fargo. Molly faces increasing pressure to close the case, while Lester starts to feel like a new man. Continuing the American drama inspired by the Coen brothers' hit film, starring Billy Bob Thornton, Martin Freeman, Colin Hanks and Allison Tolman.

10.05 Film: The Debt. (2010) Premiere. Former Mossad agents find the secrets behind their killing of a Nazi war criminal 30 years ago coming back to haunt them. Thriller, with Helen Mirren and Tom Wilkinson.

12.20 Film: The Conspirator. Premiere. Period drama, starring James McAvoy. (2010) **2.20** Utopia. (R) **3.15** Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. (R) **4.15** Hugh's 3 Good Things. (R) **4.40** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **4.50** Building the Dream. (R) **5.45** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.30** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **7.35** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Super Samurai. (R) **10.35** Access. **10.40** Big Brother: Power Trip. (R) **11.40 Film:** Teen Wolf. (1985) Comedy, starring Michael J Fox. **1.20 Film:** The Money Pit. (1986) Comedy, starring Tom Hanks and Shelley Long. **3.05 Film:** Ghostbusters. (1984) Supernatural comedy, starring Bill Murray. **5.10 Film:** Mannequin. (1987) Fantasy comedy, starring Andrew McCarthy.

6.55 Film: Dirty Dancing. (1987) A dance instructor at a 1960s resort hotel fears his career will be jeopardised when his regular partner is forced to pull out of an important show in which they are due to perform. Luckily, a naive teenager is happy to step in, and is treated to a whirlwind holiday education in life, love and expressing herself. Romantic drama, starring Patrick Swayze, Jennifer Grey and Jerry Orbach. Part of Channel 5's 80's Movie Marathon.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Big Brother: Power Trip. Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

10.00 The Greatest 80s Movies. Ronni Ancona narrates a countdown of viewers' favourite films from the decade, including ET, Top Gun, The Goonies, Ghostbusters, Beverly Hills Cop and Ferris Bueller's Day Off. Part of Channel 5's 80's Movie Marathon.

1.00 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Classic Car Rescue. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Don't Tell the Bride **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** In the Flesh **10.55** Family Guy **11.40** American Dad! **12.05** Formula 1: Canadian Grand Prix Highlights **1.05** In the Flesh **2.00** Tyger Takes on Love **2.55** In the Flesh **3.50** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Decisive Weapons **7.30** The Science of D-Day **8.00** We Fought on D-Day **8.50** Deer in the City **9.00** Norman Wisdom: His Story **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** The Horizon Guide to Mars **11.30** You've Got a Friend: The Carole King Story **12.30** Singer-Songwriters at the BBC **1.30** Norman Wisdom: His Story **2.30** Decisive Weapons **3.00** The Science of D-Day **3.30** Close

ITV2
12.50 America's Got Talent **2.30** Britain's Got Talent: Live Final **5.05** Britain's Got More Talent **6.10 Film:** Zookeeper (2011) **8.10 Film:** Year One (2009) **10.00** Viral Tap **10.45 Film:** Red Dragon (2002) **1.15** Viral Tap **1.55** 100% You've Been Framed! **2.45** Teleshopping

ITV3
11.55 Lewis **2.00** Midsomer Murders **12.05 Film:** In the Name of the Father (1993) **2.25** William and Mary **3.20** Judge Judy **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4
11.15 Live British Touring Car Championship. Round four from Oulton Park. **5.40** Live French Open Tennis. Continued coverage of the day's play at Roland Garros. **8.00 Film:** Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **9.50** Movies Now **10.00 Film:** Age of Heroes (2011) **11.55 Film:** The Black Windmill (1974) **2.05** Tommy Cooper **2.40** Movies Now **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store

E4
12.30 Youngers **1.00** Made in Chelsea **2.05** Revenge **3.00** The Big Bang Theory **4.00** The Tomorrow People **5.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **6.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Troy **8.00 Film:** Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008) **10.00** The Inbetweeners **11.00** The Big Bang Theory **12.00** Troy **1.00** Rules of Engagement **2.00** 2 Broke Girls **2.25** Drifters **3.20** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Hills of Home (1948) **1.00** Big Business (1988) **2.55** Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan (1982) **5.05** King Solomon's Mines (1985) **7.00** Drillbit Taylor (2008) **9.00** Double Jeopardy (1999) **11.05** Sixteen Candles (1985) **12.55** Once Upon a Time in Anatolia (2011) **4.00** Close

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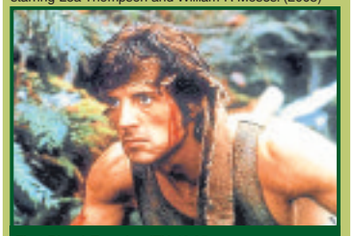
Film Choices

MONDAY
Mystery Woman: Vision of a Murder, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Bookshop owner Samantha Kinsey turns detective once more when she visits a health spa on business. One of the staff, a supposed psychic, has a vision of a woman's murder and leads Samantha to a body in the woodlands, which seems to confirm her premonition – but also puts her in the frame for the crime. Whodunit, directed by and starring Kellie Martin. (2005)

TUESDAY
First Blood, ITV, 10.35pm
Vietnam veteran John Rambo is wrongfully arrested in a backwoods town and tested to the limits of his endurance by a brutal deputy. Rambo escapes from his cell and heads out to the woods, and with the forces of the law in hot pursuit he finally has the chance to fight them on his own terms. Action thriller, starring Sylvester Stallone, Brian Dennehy and Richard Crenna. (1982)

WEDNESDAY
Jane Doe: Vanishing Act, Channel 5, 3.15pm
The former government agent is called back into service to investigate how a computer specialist working for a government contractor managed to disappear from a plane in mid-flight, taking communication satellite software and vital defence secrets with him. Mystery, starring Lea Thompson and William R Moses. (2005)


First Blood, Tuesday, ITV, 10.35pm

THURSDAY
McBride: Requiem, Channel 5, 3.20pm
The crusading lawyer gets involved in the case of a murdered violin prodigy. The dead musician's father is convinced her fiance was responsible, but McBride comes to his defence, and discovers the victim had a number of rivals who had the motive to kill her. Mystery, starring John Larroquette and Matt Lutz. (2006)

FRIDAY
Mystery Woman: Snapshot, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Sleuthing bookshop-owner Samantha Kinsey investigates the suspicious death of a friend. The victim had earlier complained that her greedy relatives were trying to cut her out of her brother's will and the family business, and Samantha's inquiries unearth family secrets dating back to the Second World War. Mystery, starring Kellie Martin and Clarence Williams III. (2005)

Twelve Monkeys, BBC2, 11.05pm
A time traveller from 2035 journeys back to the 1990s to discover the cause of a deadly disease that ravaged the world, only to be thrown into an asylum. But the longer he spends in the past, the more he comes to question whether he really is from the future or simply delusional. Terry Gilliam's sci-fi thriller, with Bruce Willis. (1995)

Pick of the Week

Robbie hopes to fine tune his team for victory

Everyone's gone football crazy, they're football mad – and if you've managed to escape the sport so far, brace yourself, because you're going to run into it very soon indeed.

That's because for the next month or so, both the BBC and ITV will be broadcasting the World Cup from Brazil, the sport's biggest and most prestigious competition.

And although British hopes rest on an unfancied England side, you can bet your bottom dollar that the nation will still be gripped to the screen, whether Roy Hodgson's men escape the group of death and make it to the knockout stages or not.

Perhaps the men in white will do better in this competition, which has been taking place every two years since 2006.

It's the brainchild of Unicef ambassador Robbie Williams, and while he might not be everybody's favourite performer, you've got to admit that this is a cracking idea, one which has raised lots of money for the charity while entertaining millions across the globe.

The idea is simple: an all-star England team made up of 12 celebrities and six legendary ex-professionals (one of which must be a goalkeeper) take on a Rest of the World XI.

Both teams are coached by well-known managers, with West Ham United boss Sam Allardyce taking charge of England this time, and Chelsea's Jose Mourinho leading the Rest of the World.

"Thanks to UNICEF for asking me to manage the Rest of the World at Soccer Aid on Sunday June 8 at Old Trafford," said Mourinho when his participation was announced.

"I'm looking forward to beating Robbie Williams' and Big Sam's England team and raising money for UNICEF."

England are leading in the head-to-head so far, having been beaten just once, in 2010, on penalties.

That match raised almost £3million, while last year's raised a record £4.9million – which is pretty good going in austerity Britain. But can the figure be beaten this time around? The fact that the UK Government will be matching the donations made by the public should certainly help.

We'll have to wait and see…

Now 40, Robbie has hung up his boots and is acting as assistant manager this time around.

"Soccer Aid returns for the fifth time in June and I admit there are scores to settle," says the Robster.

"Leading the England team, I will be making sure we defend that trophy against Rest of the World. There's never been a better time for us to show our support for UNICEF."

The great joy in watching the match, which takes place at Old Trafford, is seeing unlikely team-mates together on the pitch. Where else would Stephen Moyer, John Bishop, Mark Owen and Dominic Cooper rub shoulders with Des Walker, Matt Le Tissier and Teddy Sheringham? And that's just England! The Rest of the World features an amazing line-up, including Michael Sheen, James McAvoy, Gordon Ramsay, Jeremy Renner, Alessandro Del Piero, Edgar Davids, Jaap Stam and Andriy Shevchenko.

This year's pro-celebrity football match, Soccer Aid 2014, Sunday, ITV, 6pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY
Gail & Me: 40 Years on Coronation Street
ITV, 8pm
Has anyone in Coronation Street ever been as unlucky as Gail Potter-Tilsley-Platt-Hillman-McIntyre? She's been married five times (twice to Brian Tilsley) and widowed three times – only Martin Platt made it out alive. But she hasn't always been the downtrodden, long-suffering character we've come to know and exasperatedly shout advice at. As this documentary points out, Helen Worth was originally recruited back in 1974 to bring a little glamour and youthful energy to the cobbles. And if life on the Street has ground Gail down in the interim, that's hardly surprising, as we look back on some of her most dramatic storylines, including discovering her 13-year-old daughter was pregnant, and marrying the man she would later dub 'Norman Bates with a briefcase', serial killer Richard Hillman.

David Beckham into the Unknown
BBC1, 8.30pm
The trendsetting style icon – and recently retired footballer – embarks on an Amazon adventure, mainly on motorbike, accompanied by three of his closest friends: photographer and video director Anthony Mandler, biker expert Derek White, and Dave Gardner, his manager and boyhood buddy. Before flying to Manaus, the starting point of the journey through the rainforest, Beckham enjoys a game of beach foot-volleyball with locals from Rio's Vidigal favela, but things look set to hot up when almost 800 miles of boat and bike travel brings them to a remote jungle territory, home of the Yanonami tribe.

TUESDAY
Lineker in Brazil: The Beautiful Game
BBC1, 10.35pm
Gary Lineker presents this documentary examining the fascination with Brazilian football, featuring archive footage, interviews and profiles of some of the country's leading players. The World Cup's leading scorer, Ronaldo, gives an insight into the pleasure and pain of playing for his nation, while there is a look at Pele's role in cementing Brazil and Brazilian football firmly in the hearts and minds of the world. Michael Palin discusses the country's appeal and there are contributions from Rio Ferdinand, John Barnes and Michael Owen, and Brazilian model and TV host Fernanda Lima explores the roots and romance of Brazil and the Beautiful Game.

WEDNESDAY
All Star Mr & Mrs
ITV, 8pm
This time around, the likes of Nigel Havers, Kian Egan, Paul Ince and Johnny Vegas are set to feature with their other halves, but the mouth-watering prospect of seeing them in action will have to wait. Opening the series will be The Hoff himself, actor and all-round media love god David Hasselhoff, who's joined by his partner Hayley Roberts, TV presenter Amanda Lamb and her cameraman husband Sean McGuinness, and singer Brian McFadden and his reality star wife Vogue Williams. Phillip Schofield (isn't it time he took part in the show himself alongside his other half Steph?) poses the questions.

David Beckham into the Unknown, Monday, BBC1, 8.30pm

Football Hooligan & Proud
Channel 5, 9pm
English supporters will be under close scrutiny during the World Cup – here's hoping the guys appearing in this documentary haven't got plane tickets to Brazil. Among them is Lee, a 37-year-old die-hard Rochdale fan who has just started his third soccer ban. "At the age of 13, I started to want to fight. I love fear," he says. Jay supports Bristol City, but because the police have stifled trouble at matches, he's joined Casuals United, a group of fans from clubs across the country who search out trouble at marches and demos. Finally there's Jason Marriner, a mainstay of the Chelsea Headhunters who is serving an eight-year ban from matches and is using his free time to write his second book about football hooliganism.

THURSDAY
FIFA World Cup Live 2014
ITV, 7pm
Brazil v Croatia (Kick-off 9.00pm). The 20th staging of the World Cup gets under way this evening at the Arena de Sao Paulo, where the host nation begin their Group A campaign. This is the second time Brazil has hosted the tournament, with the last occasion in 1950 finishing with them as runners-up to Uruguay, and the feast of global football has remarkably not been held on South American soil since Argentina's controversial home victory of 1978. Brazil are always expected to be involved in the latter stages and have the honour of being the only nation to play in every World Cup finals, but the pressure on the Samba Boys is higher than ever this year, with nothing less than victory being acceptable to their adoring, yet hard-to-please fans. Several Premier League-based players are expected to be involved tonight, with the starting XI for the hosts looking to add their names to an illustrious list of World Cup heroes that includes the likes of Pele, Garrincha, Jairzinho, Zico and Ronaldo. They begin against a Croatian side that needed a play-off against Iceland to qualify after finishing behind Belgium in their group.

FRIDAY
The Bat Man of Mexico: Natural World
BBC2, 9pm
Since he first kept vampire bats in his bathroom as a child, Mexican biologist and ecologist Rodrigo Medellin has dedicated his life to saving all species of the flying mammal. In this film, David Attenborough narrates his quest to save the endangered lesser long-nosed bat, which is crucial to the production of tequila as it pollinates the plants the drink is made from. Medellin tracks the bats' epic migration across Mexico – braving hurricanes, snakes, Mayan tombs and seas of cockroaches.

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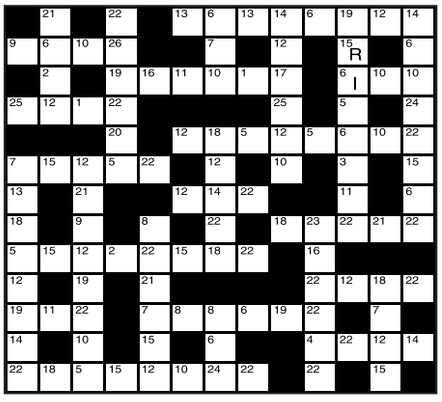
Brain Gym

No.276

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



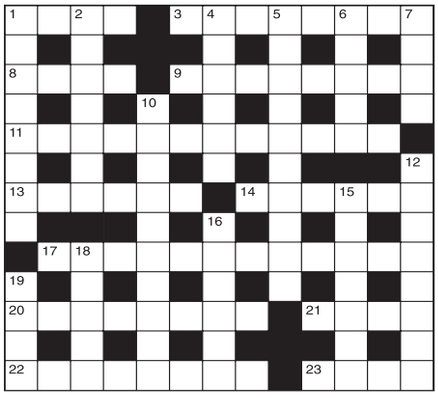
1	14
2	15 R
3	16
4	17
5	18
6 I	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 T	2 K	3 D	4 C	5 R	6 Y	7 E	8 N	9 L	10 Q	11 J	12 X	13 V
14 G	15 H	16 B	17 Z	18 I	19 M	20 W	21 O	22 A	23 P	24 F	25 S	26 U

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Endless ignominy is feigned (4)
3. Insubstantial characters in various respects (8)
8. Incorporated by a departed civilisation (4)
9. Became a soldier and established a connection (6,2)
11, 20 Ac. & 16Dn. Using a lubricant to smooth out the rollers (7,3,2,8,6)
13. Undoubtedly a word of preference (6)
14. The French fever for a confederacy (6)
17. This shows the entertaining results of projection (6,6)
20. See 11 Across
21 & 23Ac. Without precipitation (8)
22. I'd returned to emphasise the suffering (8)
23. See 21 Across

Down

1. Captains cured fish in the ship (8)
2. It needs a hundred to add up the bill (7)
4. A share that's indispensable to the farmer (6)
5. Secret communication will indicate self-reliance (10)
6. Took the horse to the ring for cowboy exhibition (5)
7. Drains the energy from simpletons (4)
10. Society will keep him until he dies! (4,6)
12. Sign name to show one's intentions (8)
15. Dreadfully enraged by the projectile (7)
16. See 11 Across
18. Clubs in which mutinous sailors used to be found (5)
19. Sanctum nearly finished for the boss (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Barrel (4)
3. Ironmongery (8)
8. Slender (4)
9. Dissipated (8)
11. Memorable date (3-6-3)
13. Talented (6)
14. Start (6)
17. Cinema (7-5)
20. Submissive (8)
21. Otherwise (4)
22. Fragment (8)
23. Hero (4)

Down

1. Waterfall (8)
2. Cheat (7)
4. Fly (6)
5. Distracted (10)
6. Boxing ring (5)
7. Consumes (4)
10. Walker (10)
12. Airy (8)
15. Mean (7)
16. Fruit (6)
18. Perfect (5)
19. Pitch (4)

Sudoku

2			9		7		4	1
3				5		2		
	4				6			
		6		8				9
8	5		1		3			4
7				4		8		
		4	5				9	
		3		6				5
1	8				2		7	6

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	6	2	9	1	5	3	8	7
9	1	3	8	4	7	5	2	6
5	7	8	3	6	2	4	1	9
3	5	1	4	8	9	7	6	2
7	9	4	6	2	1	8	3	5
2	8	6	7	5	3	1	9	4
1	4	7	2	3	6	9	5	8
6	3	9	5	7	8	2	4	1
8	2	5	1	9	4	6	7	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Midnight oil; 9 Obscure; 10 Match; 11 Enter; 12 Crooner; 13 Occult; 15 Adhere; 18 Impulse; 20 Erica; 22 Heard; 23 Castled; 24 Intemperate. Down: 2 Inset; 3 Neutral; 4 Greece; 5 Tempo; 6 Intense; 7 Come to light; 8 Charge hands; 14 Captain; 16 Dresser; 17 Teacup; 19 Ledge; 21 Inlet. QUICK - Across: 1 Destructive; 9 Aviator; 10 Alone; 11 Regal; 12 Attract; 13 Abjure; 15 Effect; 18 Expunge; 20 Cruel; 22 Alter; 23 Edifice; 24 Orderliness. Down: 2 Eying; 3 Titular; 4 Unreal; 5 Tract; 6 Violate; 7 Carriageway; 8 Teetotaller; 14 Jupiter; 16 Faction; 17 Repeal; 19 Nurse; 21 Units.

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Eight Lakes Spectacular High Peak & Southport	25 Jul, 29 Aug, 17 Oct 2 for 1 bar	3 days £99.95
Longleat Safari Jungle Cruise & Bath	21 Jun, 26 Jul, 16, 30 Aug, 20 Sep	2 days £79.95
Coronation Street The Tour & Chester	21 Jun, 19, 26 Jul, 16, 30 Aug	2 days £79.95
Making of Harry Potter Warner Bros Studio & Science Museum	14 Jun, 19 Jul, 16 Aug	2 days £99.95

5 DAY TOURS MON 16 JUN	
Newquay	£169.95
Torquay	£149.95
Weston-s-Mare	£159.95
Bournemouth	£179.95
Sand Bay, Bath & Cheddar Gorge	£189.95
Pontins, Brean Sands	£129.95
4 DAY TOURS FRI 20 JUN	
Isle of Wight	£129.95
Folkestone & Cruise to Ostend	£149.95
Torquay & Eden Project	£149.95
Eastbourne	£119.95
Pontins Brean Sands	£99.95
Weston-s-Mare	£129.95
Ostend & Bruges	£219.95
Amsterdam & Dutch Delights	£229.95
5 DAY TOURS MON 23 JUN	
Newquay, Looe & St Ives	£159.95
Aberfoyle, Edinburgh & Trossachs	£219.95
Bamburgh Castle & Holy Island	£249.95
Bournemouth & Guernsey Cruise	£229.95
Folkestone & Cruise to Ostend	£169.95
4 DAY TOURS FRI 27 JUN	
Torquay	£119.95
Weston-s-Mare	£129.95
Isle of Wight	£129.95
Eastbourne	£119.95
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Quinton

Higgins Lane
* Semi detached house
* Three bedrooms
* Kitchen/dining room
* Lovely rear garden
* EPC=tbc

Offers in the region of £159,950

Quinton

Hagley Road West
* Traditional Style Semi Detached
* Three Bedrooms
* Two Reception Rooms
* Kitchen
* Off Road Parking
* In need of general modernisation and improvement.
EPC=tbc

£162,000

Oldbury

Apsley Road
* Semi detached house
* Three bedrooms
* Extended living room
* Extended Kitchen
* Covered terrace onto rear garden
* Side Garage
EPC=tbc

£193,000

Halesowen

Greenhill Road
* Split Level Detached House
* Two Reception rooms
* Kitchen/breakfast room
* Four Bedrooms
* Two En-Suite and one Bathroom
* Conservatory
* Double Garage
EPC = C

Offers in the region of £449,950

West Bromwich

Water Works Cottage
Newton Street
* Semi detached house EPC = D
* Tastefully improved * 3 bedrooms
* Bathroom with both bath & shower, separate w.c. * Living room
* Fitted kitchen/breakfast room
* Off road parking * Gas boiler heating radiators * Open aspect over neighbouring districts
* Internal inspection recommended

Offers in the region of £189,950

Halesowen

Narrow Lane
* Detached house
* Three living rooms
* Study* Downstairs wc and utility
* Five bedrooms one with en-suite
* Bathroom
* Pleasant garden
*Timber Garage
EPC = D

Offers in the region of £305,000

Rowley Regis

Sandford Avenue
* Much Improved semi detached
* Three Bedrooms
* Garage
* Downstairs W.C
* Re-fitted kitchen and bathroom
EPC = D

£115,000

Oldbury

Edward Road
* Traditional Style Semi
* Three Bedrooms
* Through Living Room
* Conservatory
* Lovely Rear Garden
* Side Garage
* EPC=E

Offers in the region of £189,950

Quinton

Clay Drive
* End Terrace House
* Two Bedrooms
* Two Reception Rooms
* Conservatory
* Off road parking and Garage
EPC = D

£124,950

Oldbury

Queensridge Court
Queensway
* Third Floor Luxury Retirement Flat
* Complex with Host of Onsite Facilities
* Age Requirement of 55 years
* Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
* Principal Bedroom with En-Suite
* Further Bedroom (or Dining Room)
* Vacant Possession Available
* 75% Shared Equity Subject to Charges EPC = B

Offers in the region of £84,950

Quinton

Woodridge Avenue
* End Terraced house
* Kitchen/breakfast room
* Good sized living room
* Three bedrooms
* Garage
EPC = D

Offers in the region of £169,950

Oldbury

Queensridge Court
Queensway
* First Floor Luxury Retirement Flat
* Wheelchair access from second car park (Aldridge Road)
* Complex with Host of Onsite Facilities
* Age Requirement of 55 years
* Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
* Two Bedrooms (one En-Suite)
* 75% Shared Equity Subject to service/ maintenance Charges * EPC = B

Offers in the region of £92,500

Halesowen

Manor Lane
* Detached House
* Kitchen/breakfast room
* Living room and dining room
* Conservatory
* Three bedrooms
* Garage
EPC = D

Offers in the region of £279,950

Halesowen

Roundhills Road
* Detached house with 4 bedrooms
* Lounge, sitting room & conservatory
* Kitchen, utility, fitted cloakroom
* Bi-fold doors from conservatory opening to landscaped gardens
* Garage, two drives, gas boiler heating radiators
* EPC = D

Offers in the region of £209,950

Oldbury

Plot 3
George Road
* Link detached bungalow
* Two bedrooms
* Two parking spaces
* L Shaped lounge/dining area
* Quality fitted kitchen with host of appliances
* Luxury bathroom with shower cubicle
* Gas boiler heating radiators
* Fitted Carpets * EPC = C

£185,000

Oldbury

Perry Court
Hagley Road West
* Ground Floor Retirement Flat
* Two Bedrooms
* Shower room
* No Chain
* Communal Gardens
EPC = C

£64,895

Halesowen

29B Malt Mill Lane
* Semi detached house
* 2 Bedrooms
* Fitted kitchen with oven, hob and hood
* Living room * Gas boiler/radiator heating system
* Garage at rear
* Convenient location * EPC=C

Monthly rent of £535+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

Halesowen

Flat A 69 Long Lane
* Spacious 1st floor flat
* Open plan living room/kitchen
* Kitchen has some appliances
* Double bedroom with fitted wardrobe
* Neutral decoration & Double glazed windows
* Electric heating * EPC=D

Monthly rent of £325+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

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TIVIDALE

Fully refurbished to a high standard, we are offering this semi-detached house in a much sort after location. Accomodation comprises, entrance hall, lounge with bay window, open plan kitchen and diner, 2 double bedrooms, garden at rear. Front driveway and side access. Must be viewed. No upward Chain.

Elm Terrace £119.950

TIPTON

Well presented first floor flat above florist in high street location. Accomodation comprises entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, bathroom. Storage Heating.

OWEN STREET £395 PCM

We currently offer a general maintenance Service including painting and decorating, rubbish removals, carpentry, plumbing, gutter clearing, fencing repairs, drains, central heating services, Tiling, Carpet Cleaning.

We offer competitive prices and would be happy to give you a quote!

DUDLEY

Fully fitted hair salon in a popular location. To include mirrors, trolleys and colouring trays/ trolleys, Reception Desk and Chairs, Kitchen is at rear and Kitchen and Toilet facilities are shared. Must be viewed to be appreciated. Rental does not include Business Rates.

Bradford Road £400 p.c.m

PERRY BARR

Redecorated trad terrace in pop location with lounge and open plan kitchen. Shower room downstairs has been refitted 3 dble beds, private rear garden. Available immediately.

Wellhead Lane £560 p.c.m

TIPTON

Bedsit accomodation comprises lounge/ bedroom area with separate kitchen and bathroom.

TUDOR COURT £350 p.c.m

TIPTON

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ELIZABETH WALK £335 PCM

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NEW

Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury
Individually Built Traditional Style Detached Family Residence, Easy Access To Birmingham, Viewing Highly Recommended. EPC - E
- Gas Central Heating
- Five Bedrooms
- Double Glazing
- Family Bathroom, 2 En-Suite Shower Rooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Superb Well Tended Rear Garden
- Kitchen, Utility Room
- Garage, Block Paved Drive & Gated Access

Offers In The Region Of £389,950

NEW

Castle Road West, Oldbury
Well Presented Deceptively Spacious Modern Style Semi, Popular Residential Location, Easy Access To Good Local Schools. EPC - E
- Gas Central Heating
- Kitchen, Utility/Store Room
- Double Glazing
- Thee Good Sized Bedrooms
- Spacious Lounge
- Bathroom, Separate W/C
- Separate Dining Room
- Gardens & Driveway

Offers In The Region Of £160,000

NEW

Grosvenor Road, Oldbury
Well Presented Extended Traditional Style Semi, Cul-De-Sac Location, Walking Distance To Local Amenities, Ideal First Time Purchase. EPC - D
- Gas Central Heating
- Extended Kitchen
- Double Glazing
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Bathroom
- Separate Dining Room
- Garage With Driveway & Gardens

Offers In The Region Of £135,000

NEW

Hillbank, Tividale
Most Charming Semi Detached Bungalow, Walking Distance To Local Amenities, Offering No Upward Chain. EPC - C
- Gas Central Heating
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Double Glazing
- Tiled Shower Room
- Spacious Lounge
- Pleasant Well Tended Gardens
- Fitted Kitchen
- Garage With Driveway

Offers In The Region Of £130,000

NEW

Harvington Road, Oldbury
Superb Refurbished Semi Detached, In Good Order Throughout, Easy Access To Good Local Schools, No Upward Chain. EPC - TBC
- New Gas Central Heating
- Three Bedrooms
- Double Glazing
- Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Spacious Lounge/Dining Area
- Gardens To Front & Rear
- Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Carport With Driveway

Offers In The Region Of £129,950

NEW

Oldacre Road, Oldbury
Well Presented Traditional Style Terrace, Walking Distance To Good Local Schools, Easy Access To Local Amenities, Ideal First Time Purchase. EPC - C
- Gas Central Heating
- Three Good Sized Bedrooms
- Double Glazing
- Lounge
- Bathroom, Separate W/C
- Fitted Dining Kitchen
- Front & Rear Gardens

Offers In The Region Of £105,000

NEW

Ashwood Close, Oldbury
Superbly Appointed Extremely Spacious Modern Style Third Floor Apartment, In Excellent Order Throughout, Viewing Highly Recommended. EPC - C
- Electric Heating
- Two Good Sized Bedrooms
- Double Glazing
- Plus Large Dressing Area
- Lounge/Dining Area
- Bathroom
- Fitted Kitchen
- Allocated Parking Space

Offers In The Region Of £95,950

NEW PRICE

Warwick Road, Oldbury
Most Charming Traditional Style Semi, Tastefully Modernised, In Excellent Order Throughout, Cul-De-Sac Location. EPC - D
- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Spacious Lounge
- Re-Fitted Upstairs Bathroom
- Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Pleasant Landscaped Rear Garden
- Downstairs Shower Room
- Block Paved Driveway

Offers In The Region Of £155,000

NEW PRICE

Causeway Green Road, Oldbury
Most Charming And Well Presented Double Fronted Semi, In Good Order Throughout, Walking Distance To Local Amenities & Local Schools. EPC- E
- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Downstairs W/C
- Spacious Lounge
- Three Good Sized Bedrooms
- Double Glazed Conservatory
- Bathroom, Off Road Parking
- Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Pleasant Well Tended Rear Garden

Offers In The Region Of £139,950

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The Property Ombudsman

Property

Improved house has gated drive

A much-improved three bedroom semi-detached property located in the popular area of Hilltop in West Bromwich is available.

Benefiting from a large gated driveway, the house is situated minutes from Hilltop Park, primary schools and amenities.

It has a newly-fitted porch entrance, a lounge, office, newly-fitted modern kitchen with integrated appliances and conservatory.

There is an easy to maintain rear garden and garage.

On the first floor there are two double bedrooms, one single bedroom, family bathroom with separate shower unit and corner bath.

For price details or to arrange a viewing call WLYP on 0121 525 9090

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SMETHWICK

Montague Road
An opportunity to acquire an extremely spacious, well presented, modern, 6 BEDROOMED family home conveniently situated, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Porch, entrance hall (with downstairs w.c off), delightful lounge (double doors to), dining room, fitted kitchen (having integral oven/hob), super spacious conservatory/garden room, 6 bedrooms (master with shower room en-suite), house bathroom, garage and pleasant rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED TO BE FULLY APPREGIATED. EPC rating C. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £279,950

OLDBURY

Abbey Crescent
A chance to acquire a spacious, well presented, 3 bedroomed semi detached property set within this popular, convenient neighbourhood, truly requiring internal inspection, having majority double glazing and majority radiator heating and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, spacious lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen, rear vestibule area (with downstairs w.c off), 3 bedrooms, bathroom, and pleasant good sized rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating E. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £149,950

OLDBURY

Apollo Road
An attractively presented, spacious, thoughtfully improved 3 bedroomed intermediate terraced property conveniently situated for local amenities and facilities, requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, attractive lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen (with integral oven/hob), utility, downstairs bathroom, 3 good sized bedrooms and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £137,500

OLDBURY

The Pineways
an opportunity to acquire a deceptively spacious, well presented and considerably improved 2 bedroomed ground floor flat occupying a pleasant cul-de-sac position, truly requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Porch, delightful spacious lounge, super re-fitted kitchen (with integral oven/hob), inner hall, 2 bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom, pleasant garden and communal parking area. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £89,950

SMETHWICK

Milton Court, Sandon Road
Deceptively spacious 2 bedroomed flat, pleasantly situated within this retirement complex, most convenient for all local shopping facilities available within Bearwood Town Centre, approached via a communal entrance and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, spacious lounge, attractive kitchen, 2 bedrooms, shower/wet room, communal garden and communal parking area. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating C. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £60,000

SMETHWICK

Queens Road
A rare opportunity to acquire an extremely spacious, delightfully presented and considerably improved, 5/6 bedroomed semi detached property offering flexible living accommodation throughout, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, delightful lounge, sitting/dining room, re-fitted kitchen, inner vestibule area (with downstairs w.c off), utility, downstairs bedroom (having bathroom en-suite), 4 first floor bedrooms, bathroom, study/potential bed 6, additional shower room, separate w.c (off landing), and pleasant good sized rear garden. Viewing essential to fully appreciate the superb accommodation. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345

Offers around £245,000

SMETHWICK

Montague Road
A chance to acquire a spacious, well presented, modern, 4 bedroomed family home conveniently situated, requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing, and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall (with downstairs w.c off), delightful lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen (having oven/hob), 4 bedrooms (master with shower room en-suite), house bathroom, garage and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating C. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £199,950

SMETHWICK

Thimblemill Road
An attractive, well presented and thoughtfully improved 3 bedroomed traditional style semi detached property in a pleasant position, requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising: Entrance hall, delightful lounge, separate dining room, refitted kitchen (with oven/hob), 3 bedrooms, bathroom and pleasant rear garden. EPC rating E. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345

Offers around £124,950

OLDBURY

Grafton Road
An opportunity to acquire a spacious, well presented and throughfully improved 3 bedroomed end terrace property, conveniently situated and requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall (with downstairs w.c off), delightful lounge, re-fitted breakfast kitchen (having integral oven/hob), 3 bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating C. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £124,950

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PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

NEW

EPC C

OPEN HOUSE SAT 7TH JUNE 11-1

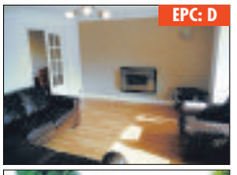
WEDNESBURY
PEMBERTON CRESCENT

- THREE BEDROOM LINK DETACHED
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- RE FITTED KITCHEN & BATHROOM FACILITIES
- UTILITY
- CONVERTED SNUG AND USEFUL GARAGE WITH RANGE OF BUILT IN WORKSHOPS, LARGE DRIVEWAY
- CENTRAL HEATING & DOUBLE GLAZING

OFFERS £154,950

All these properties are able to be viewed this weekend, with no appointment necessary. Simply turn up within the viewing times stated or alternatively, call us on 0121 505 1818 before Saturday for a fixed time appointment.

MANAGERS CHOICE


EPC: D

OPEN HOUSE SAT 7TH & SUN 8TH JUNE 11-1

WEDNESBURY
SWALLOW CLOSE

- THREE BEDROOM LINK DETACHED
- SHOW HOME CONDITION
- SUPERB LOCATION BACKING ONTO CRICKET GROUND
- RE FITTED KITCHEN & BATHROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- PARKING & GARAGE
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

OFFERS £174,950

FREE MARKET APPRAISALS - Call us now on **0121 505 1818**

EPC: C

OPEN HOUSE SAT 7TH JUNE 10-2
WEST BROMWICH
DENBIGH DRIVE

- WELL PROPORTIONED SEMI DETACHED HOME
- THREE BEDROOMS
- LOUNGE/ DINING ROOM
- CONDENSING CENTRAL HEATING
- LANDSCAPED GARDENS
- VACANT POSSESSION
- REQUIRES MODERNISATION

OFFERS £92,500

EPC: D

OPEN HOUSE SAT 7TH JUNE 10-1
WEDNESBURY
BAGNALLS WHARF

- SPACIOUS TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT
- EN SUITE TO MASTER
- ECONOMY 7 HEATING
- ALLOCATED PARKING
- CLOSE TO TOWN AND METRO LINK

OFFERS £79,950

EPC: D

OPEN HOUSE SAT 7TH & SUN 8TH JUNE 11-3
WEDNESBURY
FRIAR PARK ROAD

- TWO BEDROOM END TOWN HOUSE
- GOOD LOCATION NEAR STONE CROSS
- OPEN VIEWS TO FRONT ELEVATION
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- MATURE LANDSCAPED GARDENS
- NICELY PRESENTED THROUGHOUT

OFFERS £94,950

EPC: C

OPEN HOUSE SAT 7TH JUNE 10-12
DARLASTON
JOHNSON ROAD

- FAMILY TOWNHOUSE IN QUIET CUL DE SAC
- SUNNY GARDEN NOT OVERLOOKED
- THREE WELL PROPORTIONED BEDROOMS
- EXTENDED LOUNGE/DINING ROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- GARAGE

OFFERS £109,950

NEW
EPC: E

OPEN HOUSE SAT 7TH & SUN 8TH JUNE 11-2
DARLASTON
BRADSHAW AVENUE

- WELL PRESENTED THREE BED SEMI DETACHED
- IMMACULATE CONDITION THROUGHOUT
- THROUGH LOUNGE
- CONSERVATORY
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- WELL TENDED LAWN TO REAR

OFFERS £119,950

EPC: D

OPEN HOUSE SAT 7TH & SUN 8TH JUNE 11-2
WEDNESBURY
CROSS STREET

- SEMI DETACHED WITH POTENTIAL TO EXTEND
- THREE BEDROOMS
- LOUNGE & DINING ROOM
- RE-FITTED SHOWER ROOM
- OUTBUILDING OFFERING POTENTIAL FOR ENLARGEMENT
- DRIVEWAY & GARAGE
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

OFFERS £124,950

EPC: C

OPEN HOUSE SAT 7TH JUNE 10-12
WEDNESBURY
OXFORD STREET

- SEMI DETACHED HAND FOR AMENITIES
- THREE REASONABLE BEDROOMS
- THROUGH LOUNGE/DINING ROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- SIZABLE PLOT WITH LARGE REAR GARDEN
- DRIVEWAY & GARAGE
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

OFFERS £124,950

EPC: D

OPEN HOUSE SAT 7TH & SUN 8TH JUNE 11-2
WEST BROMWICH
COLES LANE

- EXTENDED THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- EXTENDED KITCHEN
- DOWNSTAIRS WC
- CENTRAL HEATING & DOUBLE GLAZING
- GATED SECURE REAR ACCESS
- VACANT POSSESSION

OFFERS £129,950

EPC: TBC

OPEN HOUSE SAT 7TH JUNE 1-3
WEDNESBURY
DANGERFIELD LANE

- CONVENIENTLY LOCATED SEMI DETACHED
- THREE BEDROOMS
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- GARAGE AND PARKING TO REAR
- LARGE REAR GARDEN
- NICELY PROPORTIONED
- VACANT POSSESSION

OFFERS £129,950

EPC: E

OPEN HOUSE SAT 7TH 12-2 & SUN 8TH JUNE 10-1
WEDNESBURY
BEEBEE ROAD

- FABULOUSLY PRESENTED SEMI
- THREE BEDROOMS PLUS ATTIC ROOM
- TWO RECEPTIONS ROOMS
- SUPERB KITCHEN WITH APPLIANCES
- CORNER PLOT WITH PARKING AND GARAGE
- EN SUITE TO ATTIC ROOM & BATHROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZED AND CENTRALLY HEATED

OFFERS £149,950

EPC: D

OPEN HOUSE SAT 7TH & SUN 8TH JUNE 10-2
WEDNESBURY
VICARAGE ROAD

- SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW
- TWO BEDROOMS
- REPLACEMENT DOUBLE GLAZING
- CONDENSING CENTRAL HEATING
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- QUITE LOCATION, NOT OVERLOOKED
- HANDY FOR AMENITIES & TRANSPORT LINKS

OFFERS £149,950

EPC: E

OPEN HOUSE SAT 7TH JUNE 1-4 SUN 8TH JUNE 11-4
WEDNESBURY
CHURCHFIELDS ROAD

- EXTENDED FOUR BEDROOM SEMI
- LOUNGE & DINING ROOM
- EXTENDED KITCHEN
- GARAGE & DRIVEWAY
- DOUBLE GLAZED & GAS FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- FRONT & REAR GARDENS
- ALARM SYSTEM

OFFERS £149,995

NEW
EPC: C

OPEN HOUSE SUN 8TH JUNE 11-1
WEDNESBURY
BAGNALLS WHARF

- TWO YEAR OLD SEMI IN SOUGHT AFTER CUL DE SAC LOCATION
- THREE EXCELLENTLY PROPORTIONED BEDROOMS
- IDEAL FAMILY HOME
- LOUNGE & DINING ROOM
- ATTRACTIVE GARDENS WITH DECKING
- DRIVEWAY & GARAGE
- IMMACULATE THROUGHOUT

OFFERS £152,500

EPC: D

OPEN HOUSE SAT 7TH JUNE 11-1
WEDNESBURY
SHAFTSBURY ROAD

- TRADITIONAL EXTENDED SEMI DETACHED
- THREE BEDROOMS
- THROUGH LOUNGE/DINING ROOM
- OPEN PLAN FITTED KITCHEN/DINING ROOM
- CLOAKROOM/WC & FAMILY BATHROOM
- CENTRAL HEATING & DOUBLE GLAZING
- OFF STREET PARKING & ENCLOSED

£157,950

EPC: D

OPEN HOUSE SAT 7TH JUNE 11-5
WEDNESBURY
WODEN ROAD SOUTH

- SPLENDIDLY LOCATED THREE BED SEMI
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- Majority Double Glazed
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- Front And Rear Gardens

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- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating, Freehold
- EPC RATING D

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ORCHARD ROAD, WS5 4HY

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Central Heating
- EPC RATING D

£144,950

HALL GREEN ROAD, B71 3JS

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Driveway, Freehold
- EPC RATING F

£144,950

GRAHAM ROAD, B71 4ED

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- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating And Double Glazed
- No Upward Chain, Freehold

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- Majority Double Glazing
- Central Heating
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- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
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£149,950

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- A Detached Dormer Bungalow
- Four Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- En-suite
- Garage

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ARLINGTON ROAD, B71 1AD

- An Extended Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two reception Rooms
- Front And Rear Gardens
- Freehold

£140,000

PENNYHILL LANE, B71 3RW

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating
- EPC RATING E

£159,950

CREED WAY, B70 9JW

- An End Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms, En Suite
- Central Heating and Double Glazed
- Freehold
- EPC RATING C

£149,950

ARLINGTON ROAD, B71 1AA

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Two Reception Rooms
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£179,950

PENNYHILL LANE, B71 3RW

- A Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Central Heating
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£184,950

HOLLYHEDGE ROAD, B71 3AA

- A Traditional Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Conservatory
- Garage, Freehold

£289,950

CHARLEMONT AVENUE, B71 3BY

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Two Bathrooms
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£189,950

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- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
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ST CHRISTOPHER DRIVE

- Three Bedrooms Semi Detached
- Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- SORRY NO DHSS

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Wednesbury
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- Three Bedrooms
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- Master with En-Suite
- Garage
- SORRY NO DHSS

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Wednesbury
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- Three Bedrooms Terraced House
- Gas Central Heating
- Paved Rear Garded
- Fitted Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

£500

Tipton
ANDREW ROAD

- Three Bedroom House
- End Of Terrace
- Electric Heating
- Double Glazing
- SORRY NO DHSS

£495 pcm

Wednesbury
THE AVENUE

- Second Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 pcm

Wednesbury
MYVOD ROAD

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Fitted KItchen
- Electric Heating
- SORRY NO DHSS

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- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Allocated Parking
- Electric Heating
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 pcm

West Bromwhich
CARDEN CLSOE

- Two Bedroom Mid Terraced
- Large Rear Garden
- Front And Rear Access
- Fitted Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 pcm

Darlaston
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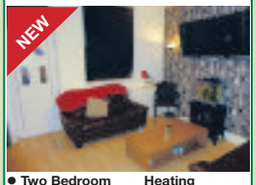

- Two Bedroom End Terrace
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Utility Room
- DHSS ACCEPTED

£450 pcm

Tipton
MIDDLE MEADOW

- Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Allocated Parking
- NEW CARPETS
- FITTED THROUGH OUT
- Gas central Heating
- SORRY NO DHSS

£450 pcm

Darlaston
PEEL CLOSE

- Two Bedroom Mid Terraced
- Private Garden
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Gas Central Heating
- SORRY NO DHSS

£450

West Bromwhich
CRANKHALL LANE

- One Bedroom
- Entrance Hallway
- Lounge
- Designated Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

£425 pcm

Wednesbury
ADDISON TERRACE

- Ground Floor Apartment
- One Bedroom
- Lounge/Diner
- Family Bathroom
- SORRY NO DHSS

£ 425 pcm

Wednesbury
BASSET ROAD

Three Bedrooms Semi Detached
Gas Central Heating
Fitted Kitchen
Close amenities
DHSS ACCEPTED

£395 pcm

Tipton
DUDLEY PORT

- One Bedroom Flat
- Central Location
- Gas central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

£375 pcm

King Hill Mews
DARLASTON ROAD

- Ground Floor One Bedroom Apartment
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- SORRY NO DHSS

£395 pcm

Booth Street
DARLASTON

- Ground Floor One Bedroom Apartment
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Fully Lit Cellar
- Off Road Rear Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

£395 pcm

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NEW

St Marys Road, Bearwood
- An Attractive End Terrace
- Period Features
- Two Double Bedrooms
- A Modern Style Kitchen
- Two Reception Room
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £154,950

NEW

Vernon Road, Oldbury
- A Tradition Mid Terrace Property
- A Modern Style Bathroom
- Two Reception Rooms
- Rear Garden
- Two Double Bedrooms
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £89,950

NEW

Rawlings Road, Bearwood
- An Attractive Traditional Terrace
- Delightful Breakfast Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Contemporary Styled Bathroom
- Conveniently Situated for Amenities
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £142,500

NEW

Pargeter Road, Bearwood
- Beautifully Presented Mid Terrace
- Contemporary Styled Bathroom
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Period Features
- Superb, Extended Kitchen
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £169,950

NEW PRICE

Queensridge Court, Oldbury
- Well Maintained 1st Flr Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Exclusive Over 55's Development
- Various Accessible Communal Areas
- 40% Shared Ownership
- EP Rating B

Offers in the region of £45,000

NEW

Merrivale Road, Bearwood
- Well Presented Traditional Terrace
- Modern Style Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Well Maintained Rear Garden
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £124,950

Wellesley Road, Oldbury

- Most Attractive Traditional Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Must be Viewed to be Appreciated!
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £92,500

Titford Road, Oldbury

- Attractive End Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Ideal First Purchase
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £104,950

NEW

Cardinal Close, Edgbaston
- Beautifully Maintained Modern Detached
- Two En Suite Shower Rooms
- Four Bedrooms
- Parking For Several Vehicles
- Open Plan Dining Kitchen
- EP Rating C

Offers in the region of £354,950

Edenhall Road, Quinton

- Most Attractive Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £229,950

Lodge Road, Smethwick

- Delightful Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating F

Offers in the region of £178,500

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Tipton
Lissimore Drive
- Two bed apartment
- Bathroom with shower
- GCH and DG
- Fitted kitchen with appliances
- Allocated car parking
- Available immediately

£475pcm

EPC: D

Wednesbury
Blenheim Drive
- Two bed first floor apartment
- Fully fitted open plan kitchen
- Part furnished
- Communal gardens
- Double glazed
- Tipton office

£450pcm

EPC: B

Tipton
Potters Brook
- First floor purpose built apartment
- Allocated parking
- Tipton office
- Two bedrooms
- 0121 520 2255
- DG and GCH
- Available immediately

£450pcm

EPC: C

Tipton
Middle Meadow
- Two bed apartment
- Allocated parking
- Fitted kitchen incl oven and hob
- Tipton office
- Available immediately
- GCH & DG
- 0121 520 2255

£450pcm

EPC: D

Sedgley
Rodway Close
- Three bed detached
- Spacious lounge with dining area
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Fully fitted modern kitchen
- Conservatory

£750pcm

EPC: D

Sedgley
Crowesbridge Mews
- Three bed detached property
- Fitted kitchen
- Conservatory
- Bathroom with shower
- Guest W/C
- Utility room

£750pcm

EPC: D

Coseley
Ettingshall Road
- Two bed apartment
- Low flush W/C
- Kitchen area with integrated appliances
- Storage heaters
- Double glazing
- Breakfast bar
- Security entry system

£525pcm

EPC: D

West Bromwich
Greets Green Road
- Two bed terraced house
- GCH
- Double glazing
- Modern kitchen
- Bathroom with shower
- Yard storage shed

£475pcm

REDUCED

EPC: D

Sedgley
Rowan Road
- Two bed family home
- Freshly decorated throughout
- GCH & DG
- Dining kitchen with cooker
- Available immediately

£525pcm

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NEW

11 THE OVAL, SMETHWICK

- Freehold semi-detached property
- Gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Two bedroom and bathroom
- Hall, lounge and kitchen
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Neatly laid out garden to the rear
- Off-street parking to the front
- In need of some cosmetic improvement
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £112500

Viewings Bearwood Office

14 GILES ROAD, OLDBURY

- Corner semi-detached
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Spacious lounge
- EPC : D

OFFERS BASED ON £119,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

153 MONTAGUE ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Recently refurbished end terraced property
- Gas centrally heated
- Part PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Refitted kitchen and refitted bathroom
- Lawned side garden with added potential for off-road parking
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : D
- NO CHAIN

OFFERS BASED ON £129,500

Viewings Bearwood Office

NEW

94 CLENT ROAD, OLDBURY

- Double fronted semi-detached residence
- Superbly appointed and extended
- Gas centrally heated and double glazed
- Three good size bedrooms
- Fully tiled bathroom with shower
- Attractive lounge & family room/conservatory
- Well fitted dining/kitchen
- Launderette and downstairs W.C.
- Mature well stocked gardens
- Two car off-street parking to the front
- INTERNAL INSPECTION ESSENTIAL
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £179,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

111 WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, OLDBURY

- Refurbished and extended semi-detached property
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed and alarmed
- Three bedrooms
- Superbly presented refitted bathroom
- Two reception rooms
- Extended refitted kitchen to include oven, hob, fridge freezer and dishwasher
- Utility/store
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Off-street parking for two cars
- INTERNAL INSPECTION A MUST
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £184,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

40 UPPER MEADOW ROAD, QUINTON

- 3 bedrooms
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- Downstairs W.C.
- Cosmetic improvement
- EPC : D

OFFERS BASED ON £139,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

NEW

121 PARGETER ROAD, BEARWOOD

- End terraced villa
- Two double bedrooms
- Spacious bathroom with shower
- Lounge and dining room
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £132,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

70 CHESTNUT ROAD, OLDBURY

- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom with Mira shower & Separate W.C.
- Through lounge/dining room
- Refitted kitchen
- Nicely presented garden to the rear
- Off-street parking for three/four cars
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £165,000

Viewing Bearwood Office

NEW

183 HEATH STREET, WINSON GREEN

- Superbly presented semi-detached property
- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Four bedrooms
- Refitted fully tiled bathroom
- Two reception rooms
- Open plan kitchen/dining room
- Off-street parking
- INTERNAL INSPECTION ESSENTIAL
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £184,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

NEW

5 RATHBONE ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Superbly presented and deceptively spacious
- Wealth of original features
- Centrally heated
- FOUR BEDROOMS and two bathrooms
- Impressive hallway
- Dining room and lounge
- Kitchen/ breakfast room
- Neatly laid out gardens to the rear
- INTERNAL INSPECTION A MUST
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £217,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

NEW

95 ABBEY ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Close to Warley Woods and Lightwoods Park
- Some double glazing (where specified)
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Through lounge/dining room
- Kitchen and utility
- Downstairs W.C.
- In need of refurbishment

OFFERS BASED ON £124,999

Viewing Bearwood Office

84 HUGH ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Three bedrooms
- Fully tiled shower room
- Through lounge/dining room
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Conservatory
- Side garage
- Off-street parking
- PVC double glazed
- Gas centrally heated
- An ideal family home
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £155,000

Viewings Bearwood Office

NEW

5 DINGLE, OLDBURY

- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Gas central heating
- PVC double glazing
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Hall, through lounge/dining room and kitchen
- Side garage and off-street parking
- Recently refurbished
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £110,000

Viewing Bearwood Office

22 DOROTHY ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Hall, lounge and kitchen/ breakfast room
- Off-street parking for two cars
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £119,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

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64 SELSEY AVENUE, EDGBASTON

- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Fully tiled bathroom
- Two reception rooms
- Recently refurbished
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £117,500

Viewing Bearwood Office

22 CROCKETTS LANE, SMETHWICK

- Modern three storey town house
- Centrally heated
- Virtually double glazed throughout
- Three bedrooms
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Kitchen/ breakfast room
- Potential for off-street parking
- In need of cosmetic improvement
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £89,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

310 GILLOTT ROAD, EDGBASTON

- Substantial semi-detached residence
- Centrally heated and double glazed
- Ideal investment opportunity
- FIVE self-contained flats
- Easy access Birmingham city centre
- EPC Rating D/E
- INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

OFFERS BASED ON £249,500

Viewing Bearwood Office

10 DALE STREET, SMETHWICK

- Freehold mid-terraced property
- Midway between Bearwood & Smethwick town centres
- Gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Vestibule, hallway and cellar
- Two reception rooms
- Requiring cosmetic improvement
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £94, 995

Viewings Bearwood Office

25 SHERWOOD ROAD, BEARWOOD

- End terraced property
- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- 3 bedrooms and bathroom to first floor
- Through lounge/dining room
- Kitchen / breakfast room
- Ideal family home
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £155,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

18 POPLAR ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Fully tiled bathroom
- Deceptively spacious accommodation
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £142,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

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DINGLE STREET, OLDBURY
- NO CHAIN ● TWO BEDROOMS
- LOUNGE ● FITTED KITCHEN
- OFF ROAD PARKING ● REAR GARDEN
- CENTRAL HEATING ● DOUBLE GLAZING
- EPC: C

£107,000

ST JAMES ROAD, OLDBURY
- TWO BEDROOMS ● LOUNGE
- DINING ROOM ● FITTED KITCHEN
- REAR GARDEN ● CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING ● EPC: E

£109,950

TITFORD ROAD, OLDBURY
- NO CHAIN ● REFURBISHED
- THREE BEDROOMS ● TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- FITTED KITCHEN ● REAR GARDEN
- CENTRAL HEATING ● DOUBLE GLAZING
- EPC: E

£109,950

MORE PROPERTIES URGENTLY REQUIRED CALL US NOW

TIMOTHY ROAD, TIVIDALE
- NO CHAIN ● THREE BEDROOMS
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS ● FITTED KITCHEN
- OFF ROAD PARKING ● GARAGE
- STUDY ● EPC: E

£125,000

SAMS LANE, WEST BROMWICH
- THREE BEDROOMS ● LOUNGE
- FITTED KITCHEN/DINER ● REAR GARAGE
- REAR GARDEN ● CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING ● EPC: E

£139,950

MOORE CRESCENT, OLDBURY
- NO CHAIN ● FOUR BEDROOMS
- LOUNGE ● FITTED KITCHEN
- GUEST W.C ● REFURBISHED
- REAR GARDEN ● CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING ● EPC: E

£139,950

EAGLE LANE, TIPTON
- THREE BEDROOMS ● TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- FITTED KITCHEN ● CONSERVATORY
- EN-SUITE ● OFF ROAD PARKING
- GARAGE ● CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING ● EPC: D

£199,950

TRINDER ROAD, SMETHWICK
- NO CHAIN ● REFURBISHED
- THREE BEDROOMS ● LOUNGE
- FITTED KITCHEN ● GUEST W.C
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A deceptively spacious penthouse apartment situated on a popular privately managed and gated development. Communal entrance, entrance hall, "L" shaped lounge/dining room, kitchen, "L" shaped hallway utility/laundry, three bedrooms, ensuite shower and bathroom. Two patios and fire escape. communal grounds, garage and parking. EPC Rating G
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NEW

ROWLEY REGIS

ROWLEY VILLAGE
An extended detached property having scope for further extension subject to planning. Porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, five bedrooms, family bathroom, shower room. Garage/workshop, off road parking and rear garden. EPC Rating D
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NEW

TIPTON

STANDBRIDGE WAY
Modern semi-detached house offering an ideal first time purchase. Entrance hall, lounge, understairs store cupboard, dining kitchen, two bedrooms, ensuite shower and family bathroom. Off road parking, front and rear gardens. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating C
Price: £109,950

NEW

WEST BROMWICH

VICARAGE ROAD
A mid terraced property requiring complete modernisation and refurbishment, both structurally and cosmetically. Front entrance door into front room, inner hallway, rear sitting room, kitchen, lobby W.C. off and bathroom, two bedrooms, front and rear gardens, rear vehicular access CASH PURCHASERS ONLY. EPC Rating F
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REDUCED

OLDBURY

BRANDHALL ROAD
Semi-detached house situated in a sought after residential location. Porch, reception hall, through lounge/dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, double glazing, central heating, garage and off road parking. Established rear garden. EPC Rating E
Offers in the region of £139,950

OLDBURY

WITLEY CRESCENT
Traditional semi-detached house providing good sized accommodation. Entrance hall, through lounge/dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, shower room, central heating, double glazing, block paved driveway and rear garden with outside toilet and two storage sheds. EPC Rating TBA
Offers in the region of £114,950

REDUCED

OLDBURY

HARVINGTON ROAD
Traditional end terraced house in need of general updating. Porch, entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, side lobby, doakroom, three bedrooms, separate toilet and shower room. Garage and additional parking. Established gardens to front and rear. EPC Rating C
Offers in the region of £114,950

TIVIDALE

POPLAR AVENUE
Traditional semi-detached house offering good sized accommodation. Entrance hall, lounge, dining kitchen, pantry cupboard, side utility, two double bedrooms, bathroom. Off road parking and large rear garden. EPC Rating D
Offers in the region of £104,950

REDUCED

TIPTON

HOLCROFT STREET
Fully modernised and improved mid terraced property ideal for first time purchase. Front room, inner hallway, lounge with feature fireplace, galley style kitchen, bathroom, cellar conversion, two bedrooms, central heating, double glazing where specified, rear garden. EPC Rating C
Offers in the region of £80,000

REDUCED

OLDBURY

WATERSIDE COURT, TITFORD ROAD
Spacious apartment built only 9 years ago to a high specification. Ideal first time purchase or investment opportunity. Communal entrance, entrance hall, store cupboard, lounge/dining area, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom. Allocated parking and communal gardens. EPC Rating C
Price: £79,950

REDUCED

TIPTON

HOLCROFT STREET
Well presented spacious flush fronted terraced property. Double glazing and gas central heating to entrance hall, dining room, lounge, kitchen, downstairs toilet, two bedrooms, bathroom. Rear garden. EPC Rating D
Offers in excess of £76,000

PUBLIC NOTICE

Hillside, Brades Road, OLDBURY, B69 2EP
We advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £89,000. Any persons wishing to increase on this offer should notify the agents of their best offer prior to exchange of contracts. EPC Rating E Tom Giles & Co. 11 Church Street, Oldbury, B69 3AD 0121 552 6171

PUBLIC NOTICE

116 Arden Road, SMETHWICK, B67 6EW
We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £85,000. Any interested party must submit any higher offer in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place. EPC Rating D.

PUBLIC NOTICE

19 Waterside Court, 301 Titford Road, OLDBURY, B69 4QT
We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £78,000. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts can take place. EPC Rating C.

OLDBURY

CHURCH STREET
Fully refurbished office suite located in Oldbury Town Centre opposite Sandwell Council Offices. Comprising 3 offices, kitchen and toilet facilities. EPC Rating E
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Marking 30th anniversary

BMW'S popular M5 performance saloon has reached an important milestone – it's 30 years old.

And to celebrate, the German car maker has unveiled a limited edition model boasting more power than any previous M5.

Branded the M5 30 Jahre Edition, this limited run '30 Years' version packs 600 horsepower 40 more than the standard car. Furthermore, it can sprint from zero to 62mph in a lightning fast 3.9 seconds.

This special anniversary model borrows heavily from the Competition package M5 variant, itself a more focused version of the base car thanks to a raft of upgrades such as tweaks to the suspension, transmission and steering.

And like the car, you'll have to be quick if you're interested, as BMW is producing only 300 '30 Year' M5s, with only 30 slated for the UK priced at £91,890.

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Fuel consumption figures for Fiat 500 range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 49.6 (5.7) – 64.2 (4.4); Extra Urban 65.7 (4.3) – 91.1 (3.1); Combined 58.9 (4.8) – 76.3 (3.7). CO_2 emissions 113 – 90 g/km. Fuel consumption and CO_2 figures based on standard EU tests for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. ‡Under current DVLA regulations there is no charge for Vehicle Excise Duty in the first year of registration and every subsequent year. Vehicle Excise Duty rates are reviewed annually by the government and are subject to change.

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The Infiniti gives a buzz to the luxury end of market

By Bill McCarthy

Infiniti for many, could conjure up images of children's favourite Buzz Lightyear, So for those people still in the dark about Infiniti, the start of the Formula 1 season will give ample reminders.

The Japanese car maker, the luxury arm of Nissan, sponsors the Red Bull racing team. And while the brand, launched in the UK continues to grow slowly in the public's consciousness, it has been around for more than 25 years, gaining particular success in America.

The cars are at the executive, luxury end of the market and offer a combination of standout design, powerful engines and cutting edge technology.

The also offer a high level of standard equipment across the range, which can add many thousands to the prices of their competitors.

No better example perhaps of this is the new Q50, a luxury saloon which is packed with technology and features a new, 2.1 litre diesel engine sourced from Mercedes, plus a hybrid version. It also marks the first car in the Q or QX range, which will brand all their cars, right up to the Formula 1 Q100 driven by Sebastian Vettel.

It is an eye-catching car both inside and out and definitely food for thought for its German rivals. The turbocharged diesel gives the car decent acceleration and excellent economy, plus, importantly, low CO2 emissions which make it a real option in the all-important business sector. Emissions of just 114 g/km put it in the lowest benefit in kind taxation bracket and while the claimed 64-odd mpg average consumption seemed optimistic, the car was easily in the mid-50s range.

The 170PS diesel has plenty of urge, propelling the vehicle to 60mph from a standing start in just 8.5 seconds and on to a top speed of 144mpg. But it is not all about the power. This is a refined unit with little diesel clatter and what engine, road and wind noise there is, is effectively muffled by the car's soundproofing system. Transmission is delivered via a slick-shifting six speed gearbox sending drive to the rear wheels.

Another advantage is how the car looks, a distinct difference to the German market leaders and always attracting curiosity. It has flowing, yet muscular lines, eye-catching headlight and rear light clusters, twin exhausts twin, five-spoke 17-inch alloys and off course the Infiniti badge.

The exterior is also protected with the firms 'healing' paint, which self repairs small scratches. Inside the car is both roomy and comfortable. It has the longest wheelbase in its class so both front and rear occupants get good head and leg room. It also features a huge 500 litre boot and the rear seat splits 60/40 for extra luggage space and there is access to the boot through the rear centre armrest. The layout of the dash and controls is neat and logical while the dash features a battery of hi-tech equipment, dominated by the central dual touchscreen which looks pretty much like a computer tablet with its swipeable screen.

For the most part fixtures and fitting are high class, but the expensive feeling soft touch finish in some areas is let down by some lower grade plastics. The steering wheel is also multi function and the car features the now-commonplace push button starter. Needless to say luxury cars need to ride well and the Q50 is a comfortable car to be a passenger and driver and although perhaps not the most dynamic of models, it still feels sure footed and grips well on corners.

At just over £30k this is a lot of car for the money. Whether it can attract the potential buyers from the established German brands remains to be seen but throw in standard kit like Infiniti Drive Mode Selector, Bluetooth, rear view camera, zone adaptive climate control, six-speaker sound system and heated leather seats and it looks an attractive package.

Price: £30,050

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Volvo hybrid gets boost of R-Design

The super-efficient Volvo V60 Plug-in Hybrid – one of the best-selling hybrid-electrified vehicles in Europe in 2013 – is now also available in Volvo Cars' R-Design specification.

"We sold almost 8,000 plug-in hybrids in 2013. Adding the R-Design dynamic attributes to the V60 Plug-in Hybrid – the world's first diesel plug-in hybrid – will further broaden its appeal. The customer gets segment-topping performance combined with outstanding efficiency," says Alain Visser, senior vice-president marketing, sales and customer service at Volvo Car Group.

The Volvo V60 D6 AWD R-Design Lux Nav is available from £51,675 (excluding £5,000 Plug-In Car Grant) on the road and can be ordered now, with expected deliveries from August.

The V60 Plug-in Hybrid R-Design features a number of unique interior and exterior features which create a sporty presence. The exterior blends the Plug-in Hybrid identification with the R-Design front bumper and grille, rear diffuser and 18in Ixion wheels.

Inside, the car comes with a full R-Design interior, featuring sports seats as standard with a blend of black nubuck textile and perforated leather. Amongst the other unique R-Design features, it also includes sports pedals, sports floor mats and charcoal headlining. The car retains the special plug-in hybrid instrumentation and information.

Contact

Also fitted as standard on all PHEVs is Volvo's telematic system, Volvo On Call. This system allows users to use a free mobile app to access a number of functions and keeps the driver in constant contact with the vehicle, no matter where they are.

The front wheels of the V60 Plug-in Hybrid are powered by a five-cylinder 2.4-litre turbodiesel producing 215hp and 440Nm of torque. The car has a six-speed automatic transmission.

The rear axle is powered by an electric motor producing 70 horsepower and 200Nm of torque. It is supplied with power from an 11.2kW/h lithium-ion battery pack installed under the floor of the load compartment.

The driver selects the required driving mode via three buttons that give the car three entirely different temperaments: Pure, Hybrid or Power.

In the default hybrid mode, the carbon dioxide emissions are down to just 48g/km. This corresponds to fuel consumption of 155.2 mpg (NEDC certification driving cycle for hybrids).

What is more, at the touch of a button the driver can choose to cover up to 31 miles on pure electric power - or utilise the combined capacity of the diesel engine and electric motor to create a veritable driving machine that offers 215+70 horsepower and 440+200Nm of torque.

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Top Vauxhall dealership is setting a high standard

By Bob Hickman

The excellent and experienced team at Dudley Motor Company has been recognised by Vauxhall as a top performing dealership in the area.

Just recently Maria Hanbury, service advisor at Dudley Motor Company, was nominated by the company to Vauxhall head office in recognition of her consistent good customer service and has recently been presented with an award.

Maria has a wealth of knowledge when it comes to the subject of Vauxhall servicing after 29 years in the industry, and 'loves all the people she meets and works with in her job'.

New face to the service team is Georgie Cordon. Georgie is an experienced service advisor, but finished her education a few years ago achieving certificates as a qualified beauty therapist, which she still continues in her spare time.

Staff at Dudley Motor Company don't need an excuse to party but celebrations where heard on Trindle Road as they marked Motability specialist, Tony Lister's, 80th birthday. 'Ol' Blue Eyes', Tony Lister, with over 50 years' experience selling Vauxhalls has accumulated a large bank of knowledge to answer any questions about the Motability Scheme.

If you are due to renew your vehicle or wondering if you or a member of your family is eligible for the scheme, then either call in at Dudley Motor Company on Trindle Road or catch Tony at Tesco, Town Gate Retail Park, Birmingham Road, Dudley DY1 4RP on Friday, June 6, between10am and 4pm.

Motability customers in and around Dudley can be sure of receiving outstanding customer service from Dudley Motor Company as it also recently won a regional award for its work with the Motability Car Scheme. The accolade is part of a new programme of awards to reward local Motability dealerships which provide outstanding customer service in their area.

The new Dealer Awards programme is designed to ensure all Motability customers receive exemplary customer service across the dealer network. The awards are judged on how a dealer delivers the scheme to customers, which is assessed by customer feedback and reviews of their Motability performance. All winners of the quarterly awards are automatically entered into the new national, annual awards which were held for the first time in January 2014.

Positive

Peter Wilson, general manager – dealer relations at Motability operations, explains: "As the 'shopfront' of the Motability Scheme and in many cases, the first contact point for our customers, the focus of these awards is to thank our dealer partners for providing an ongoing positive customer service experience.

"Our customers continually rate the service they receive at the dealership highly but there's always room for improvement and opportunities to learn from those who are doing it really well, like Dudley Motor Company. Many congratulations to them on their award win."

Celebrating their Motability Dealer Award win, Tony Lister from Dudley Motor Company, said: "We are pleased and proud to win this Motability Dealer Award. Motability is renowned for its high standards and Dudley Motor Company is thrilled to be recognised for its dedication to working in partnership with Motability. We look forward to continuing our award-winning approach to business and customer service, and hope to do well in the upcoming annual awards."

Anyone who receives the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance, the Enhanced Rate of the Mobility Component of Personal Independence Payment or the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement can exchange the weekly payment to lease a new car through Motability. Insurance, servicing, RAC breakdown assistance and replacement tyres are included in the cost of the lease.

For more information about the Motability Scheme contact Tony Lister on 01384 454100 or visit www.dudleymotorco.co.uk.

Dudley Motor Company's general manager, Rob Gilbert said: "We are extremely proud of Maria and Tony for their achievements over the years and indeed the enthusiasm and hard work of the rest of the team. To us customer experience is very important, so we always want to make sure that all new or returning customers are able to approach any member of the team and are well looked after. "

The new Vauxhall Vivaro will soon be arriving at Dudley Motor Company.

More practical and robust, it's built in Britain to the toughest standards and can carry even the most challenging of loads.

For more information contact Dudley Motor Company's new van specialist Donna Hadley.

Pictured: Maria Hanbury (service advisor), Simon Foulkes (Motability dealer development manager) and Tony Lister (Motability specialist). The Vauxhall Vivara

DUDLEY MOTOR COMPANY
THE BIG SALE

ALL CARS REDUCED - SOME BELOW COST PRICE!
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13/13	CORSA SXi AC, 3-dr, Hatch 1.2, Grey, 8948 miles	£7995	£7695
12/12	VIVARO 2900 COMBI CDTi LW 2.0, White, 25,142 miles	£11,995	£10,995
12/62	ANTARA 2.2 CDTi EXCLUSIV 163PS, Auto, Olympic, 8028 miles	£15,995	£15,495
13/13	ASTRA SRi 5-dr HATCH 1.6 White 14,538 miles	£10,995	£10,495
10/10	ASTRA HATCH 1.7 CDTi 125PS SRi ECO, 5-dr, Silver Lightning, 47,671 miles	£8495	£7995
13/13	CORSA SRi HATCH 1.4, 3-dr, White, 13,858 miles	£9995	£8995
12/62	ANTARA 2.2CDTi EXCLUSIV S/S 4X, Grey, 22,058 miles	£14,495	£13,995
13/13	CORSA HATCH 1.4 SRi ,3-dr, AC, Glacier, 6731 miles	£9999	£8995
08/58	CORSA DESIGN CDTi HATCH 1.2, 5-dr, Blue, 42,000 miles	£5495	£4995
13/63	MOKKA HATCH 1.6 115PS EXCLUSIV ST, 5-dr, Blue, 528 miles	£15,495	£14,995
09/59	COMBI 1700 CDTi 1.2, Casablanca, 45,103 miles		£3995
12/62	ASTRA 1.6i VVT SE AU 5-dr, Silver Lightning, 22,353 miles	£9995	£8995
13/13	ZAFIRA 1.7CDTi 125PS DESIGN ECO, 5-dr, Black, 14,777 miles	£11,495	£10,495
12/62	CORSA SE HATCH 1.4, 5-dr, Blue, 12,356 miles	£8495	£7995
07/07	NISSAN INTERSTAR SE MWB 2.5, White, 75,975 miles	£6000 + VAT	£4995 + VAT
08/58	CORSA HATCH 1.2 SXi, 3-dr, Red, 48,718	£4995	£4650
13/13	VIVARO LWB VAN 2.0 CDTi 2.9T, White, 8138 miles	£13,495 + VAT	£12,995 + VAT
12/12	ASTRA SXi CDTi ECOFLEX 1.3, 5-dr, HBK, Silver, 22,247 miles	£9995	£9495
06/06	CORSA SXi+ 16V S-A, Black, 51,000 miles		£2995
11/11	CORSA LTD EDT 1.2, 3-dr, White/Black, 16,609 miles	£8995	£7995
12/62	ASTRA ACTIVE LIMITED EDIT HATCH, 5-dr, Power Red, 17,551 miles	£10,995	£9995
11/11	ASTRA EXCLUSIV ESTATE 1.6, Power Red, 19,762 miles	£8995	£8495
05/05	ASTRA SXi HATCH 1.6, 3-dr, Silver, 59,506 miles	£4495	£3995
07/57	ANTARA E CDTi 2.0 HBK, 5-dr, Black, 52,437 miles	£7995	£7495
09/09	FIAT 500 LOUNGE M JET 1.2 HBK, 3-dr, Blue, 44,038 miles	£6995	£5995
08/58	INSIGNIA EXCLUSIV 160 DTi HATCH, 5-dr, Sovereign, 63,347 miles	£6995	£6495
10/10	ASTRA SRi 88 1.4 HATCH, 3-dr, Black, 38,979 miles	£6995	£6495
12/12	ASTRA ACTIVE HATCH 1.6, 5-dr, Power Red, 15,357 miles	£9495	£8995
05/05	MERIVA DESIGN 8V MPV 1.6, Black, 62,332 miles	£2995	£1995
13/63	CORSA HATCH 1.4 SRi, 3-dr, AC, Red, 7134 miles	£9995	£9495
09/09	VECTRA 1.8 SRi, 5-dr, Black Sapphire, 60,500 miles	£9295	£4695
13/13	MERIVA EXCLUSIV MPV 1.4, AC, Black, 2126 miles	£9995	£9495
11/11	INSIGNIA EXCLUSIV 2.0 CDTi SPORTS TO, Silver, 33,921 miles	£9995	£9495
07/07	NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 1.3, 3-dr, Blue, 60,021 miles	£3995	£3495
10/10	MAZDA 2TS HATCH 1.3, 3-dr, Blue, 18,868 miles	£5995	£5495
10/60	RENAULT MEGANE 1-MUSIC DCI 104 1.4, Blue, 57,589 miles	£6995	£6695
10/60	PEUGEOT 107 URBAN HATCH 1.0, 5-dr, Grey, 22,867 miles	£5495	£4995
13/13	MERIVA EXCLUSIV MPV 1.4, AC, Red, 1798 miles	£9995	£9495
13/62	CORSA ACTIVE 1.4 HATCH, 3-dr, Glacier, 8519 miles	£8495	£7995

		WAS	NOW
08/08	FORD FIESTA ZETEC BLUE 75 HATCH, 3-dr, White, 58,000 miles	£4995	£4495
07/57	CITROEN C1 VTR+ HATCH 1.0, 3-dr, Red, 47,228 miles	£5995	£4995
07/57	MERIVA DESIGN EASYTRONIC 1.6, Blue, 43,893 miles	£4995	£4495
13/63	ASTRA 1.7i WT SRi, 5-dr, Red, 3006 miles	£12,995	£12,495
09/59	COMBO 1700 CDTi 1.2 Casablanca, 45,103 miles	£4495	£3995
06/06	CORSA SXT+ 16v S-A Black, 51,000 miles	£3250	£2995
04/54	DAEWOO KALOS SX 16v 5-dr, HBK, Blue, 24,000 miles		£1995
04/04	MERIVA DESIGN 8v MPV 1.6 Black, 62,332 miles	£2995	£2695
07/07	NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 1.3 3-dr, Blue, 60,021 miles		£3795
10/60	RENAULT MEGANE I-MUSIC DCI 106 1.4 Blue, 57,589 miles	£6795	£6495
08/08	CORSA DESIGN HATCH 1.4 Auto, 5-dr, Metro Blue, 80,169 miles	£4495	£3995
10/60	CITROEN C1 VTR+ HATCH 1.0 3-dr, Red, 47,228 miles	£5995	£4995
07/57	MERIVA DESIGN EASYTRONIC 1.6 Blue, 43,893 miles		£4995
07/57	FIAT PUNTO DYNAMIC SPORT 1.4 3-dr, Red, 50,807 miles	£4495	£4250
06/56	CORSA EXPRESSION TWINPORT HATCH 3-dr, Blue, 49,808 miles	£3495	£2995
05/05	MERIVA BREEZE S-A HATCH 1.6 5-dr, Silver Lightning, 51,584 miles	£3495	£3250
06/56	TOYOTA AVENSIS 3-4D T180 HATCH 5-dr, Black, 66,780 miles	£5995	£5650
04/04	NISSAN 350 Z SPORTS 3.5 Silver, 53,928 miles	£7995	£7495
06/06	PEUGEOT 206 ALLURE CC S-A COUPE 1.6 Red, 45,006 miles		£4995
08/08	SUZUKI SWIFT ATTITUDE HATCH 1.0 3-dr, Blue, 44,415 miles	£5695	£4995
05/55	FIESTA ZETEC CLIMATE HATCH 1.2 5-dr, Silver, 48,044 miles	£4495	£3995
06/06	MINI COOPER 1.6 Green, 22,890 miles	£5995	£5650
11/11	FIAT PUNTO 1.3 EVO ACTIVE Black, 48,852 miles	£5495	£4995
06/06	CORSA HATCH SXi 1.4 Black, 59,927 miles		£3695
07/57	NISSAN NOTE 1.6 ACENTA 5-dr, Red, 31,800 miles	£5295	£4995
06/06	TIGRA 1.4 TWINPORT Black, 45,545 miles	£4995	£4495
04/54	SCENIC 1.6 RUSH WT 115 Blue, 57,428 miles		£3250
03/03	CORSA 1.2 SXi 16v 3-dr, Blue, 75,600 miles		£1995
07/07	SUZUKI SWIFT GL 3-dr, White, 27,868 miles		£4995
01/51	FIAT SEICENTO 1.1 SX 3-dr, Green 12,585 miles		£1995
07/07	PEUGEOT 207 S 5-dr, Red, 37,014 miles	£4995	£4695
03/53	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 ACTIVE, 5-dr, Star Silver, 56,411 miles		£2495
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06/06	MERIVA 1.4 ACTIVE, Silver Lightning, 38,974 miles		£3995
05/55	SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 1.6 VVT, Silver, 33,000 miles		£4995
04/04	MG TF 1.8, Silver, 62,000 miles		£2995
02/52	ASTRA COUPE 1.8 CONVERTIBLE, Star Silver, 38,029 miles		£2995
11/11	COMBO 1700 1.3 CDTi 16V 75PS, Red, 36,211 miles	£6795	£5995

DUDLEY MOTOR COMPANY
01384 454100
www.dudleymotorco.co.uk
TRINDLE ROAD, DUDLEY, DY2 7AY
(Between Cousins and Dudley Zoo)

MG's new supermini looks like a good choice

By Bob Hickman

The MG badge is back. We could argue it came back over 18 months ago with MG6, but that is a large saloon vehicle, whereas the MG3 is attempting to put back a sense of style, bit of fun and certainly affordability into the marketplace.

The MG3 is pitched into the important supermini category, and it should hold its head in this company.

It has a reasonably economical engine, high levels of specification, and it does not look too out of place in the car park.

And one of the big plusses with the MG is its pricing structure.

There are four derivatives and the entry level starts at a mere £8,399, even the top specification is priced at just £9999, and this has to be superb value for money, assuming the vehicle lives up to expectations.

The new MG3 is mostly built in China by MG's new owners, SAIC, the final assembly takes place in the UK. The vehicle was designed and styled in the UK, where over 300 engineers and designers are employed to produce vehicles suitable for the UK and European market, and certainly the ride and handling have been honed to perfection for our bumpy roads.

It is a delight to see the octagonal badge back on the bonnet and also displayed on the cylinder head cover in the engine bay.

The whole range is powered by a single 1.5-litre engine which produces 105ps. There have been complaints the engine lacks power and is a lethargic. I take the viewpoint this is an engine which needs to be revved.

It is not an engine which produces a lot of torque at low speed, but when you rev it and get the needle above 3,000 revs, then it starts to reward you.

Delight

The five-speed gearbox was a delight to operate, and even allowing for the lack of torque, it was not really problematic to change gear frequently to make progress. A top speed of 108 mph and 0-60mph in 10.4 seconds is achievable.

The economics of running the vehicle are ones of not very high mpg figures. The manufacturer suggests 48-plus should be available, I managed to achieve 40mpg over a varied 4,000 miles whilst in ownership of the vehicle.

The CO2 emissions at 136 g/km are not going to place the MG3 in the ultra cheap Vehicle Excise Duty category and that is a shame.

The big feature for me, however, is the huge amount of interior space. Iif a small supermini is your choice but you need to move four adults, five at a push, then you seriously need to check out the MG3.

My 6ft-plus frame in the driver's seat still enabled a 6ft-plus person to sit behind me, with ample amounts of leg, head and shoulder room. This really is worth a couple of extra ticks on your shopping list. The boot space was adequate but not overly generous.

The interior has sadly followed the fashion of today with lots of black plastic and a very dark overall look. However, there was some wonderful contrasting red stitching on the steering wheel and on the superb sport-type seats.

The vehicle, from a driver's perspective, was not overly complicated – just radio controls contained on the steering wheel, and two stalks on the steering column, one for the wipers and combined computer and one for the lights and indicators.

There was a cubby-hole on the dashboard, hidden behind a roller cover. The kind people at MG had fitted as an afterthought, an iPad connection. This to me was a bit of a waste of money and wasted space.

Extensively

Four trim levels are available, my test car was the 3 FORM Sport and this was extensively equipped. It included air conditioning, the driver and passenger's wing mirrors are electronically adjustable and heated, and in addition there was a DAB radio and a Bluetooth facility to either stream in your music or telephone.

Safety has not been overlooked and there are a plethora of airbags including driver and passenger, side and curtain airbags.

The MG is also equipped with an anti-lock braking system and a stability control. One feature which works quite nicely is the hill-hold control.

MG is hopeful of selling 2,000 to 2,500 of the MG3 and I can see no reason why this target should not be achieved, certainly the pricing structure MG has introduced makes this particular derivative a very attractive option.

I just hope against hope that the Chinese owners of MG will start very soon to re-introduce a two-seater sports car, which the market is just crying out for.

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4 Pets & Animals

pets corner

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1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.

Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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6 Property

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8 Motoring

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FORD FIESTA TITANIUM
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KIA CARENS 1.9 DIESEL
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PEUGEOT 206 COUPE Cabriolet, 2003, silver, low miles, good condition, MoT, £1,850. 01785 711332 or 07768 913434.

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CITROEN SAXO DESIRE 1.1cc, 2003, metallic red, SR, PAS, CL, 95K, new MoT, tax August, £645. 07434 332337.

CITROEN SAXO EAST COAST, 1999, yellow, 104,000 miles, 11 months MoT, sunroof, alloys, stereo, CD, £300. 07860 539980.

DAEWOO LANOS SE, 1998, petrol, 79,400 miles white, MoT till October, good condition, £200 ono. Telephone 07740 047607.

FIAT PUNTO Active, 54 reg, MoT, 44k, skirts, spoiler, alloys, tints, sports seats, PAS, lovely £1,295. 07523 729551.

FORD FOCUS estate, 1.8, 02 plate, very good condition, reluctant sale, £950 ono. 07894 719305.

FORD FOCUS GHIA 1.6 saloon, 01, yr MoT, 6mths tax, low mls. Immaculate condition. Due to bereavement, £800. 07570 466113.

FORD PUMA 1.7, 76,500 miles, lady owner, good condition, valued £995, sell £670. 0121 353 6121.

NISSAN ALMERA TINO. 03 reg., short MoT. Black. Good condition. £495. o.n.o. 01922 861907.

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

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GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

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To add an operating centre to keep SEVEN goods vehicles and THREE trailers at 56 Oldbury Road, West Bromwich B70 9DE

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (A34 Birmingham Road Viaduct, Great Barr) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2014, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along A34 Birmingham Road viaduct.
The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 15/06/14, effective from 09/06/14.
Alternative route via: M6 J7 gyratory.
Purpose – bridge works.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The council has made **The Borough Council of Sandwell (A461 Burnt Tree to Black Country New Road) (Red Route) Order 2014** which will bring into permanent effect an Experimental Order which expires on 16/06/14 as follows:-
1) Prohibit any vehicle from stopping in the Red Route Area between the hours of 7am - 7pm on Mondays – Fridays other than in areas subject to items 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 below on the A461 Burnt Tree between its junction with A4123 New Birmingham Road and Coneygree Road, on the A461 Dudley Port between its junction with Coneygree Road and B4163 Lower Church Lane, on the A461 Horseley Heath between its junction with B4163 Lower Church Lane and B4517 New Road and on the A461 Great Western Way between its junction with B4517 New Road and A41 Black Country New Road, as well as part of the following side roads as shown on the plans of the red route: Bradley Street, Coneygree Road, Tividale Street, Anchor Drive, Fisher Street, Groveland Road, Tudor Street, Peake Drive, Station Drive, St Paul's Drive, Johns Lane, B4163 Lower Church Lane, Heath Close, Denbigh Road, William Ker Road, Dovecote Close, Horseley Road, Arnhem Way, Railway Street, B4166 Tame Road, Scott Street, Providence Street, Ball Fields, Leech Street, Lewis Street, Market Place, Meeting Street, Mill Street, B4517 New Road, Olympus Drive and Brickhouse Lane South and A41 Black Country New Road. 2) To designate certain sections of the Red Route as 'No Stopping At Any Time'. 3) To designate certain sections of the Red Route as 'Bus Stop Clearways At Any Time'. 4) To provide areas for parking at the edge of the carriageway at any time. 5) To provide areas of limited waiting at anytime for a maximum period of 20 minutes with no return within 40 minutes. 6) To provide areas for loading for a maximum duration of 20 minutes. 7) To provide areas of taxi rank at the edge of the carriageway at any time.
Full details may be examined at: Area Director Street Scene, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE during normal office hours.
The Order was made on 05/06/14 and shall come into operation on the 16/06/14.
If you wish to question the validity of the Order on the grounds that any aspect of the relevant legislation has not been complied with, you can apply to the High Court by 17/07/14.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Economy
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

This is a major application.
The Council are of the opinion that the proposal may affect the setting of a listed building.

DC/14/57139	Thimblemill Estates Ltd	The Thimblemill 174 Thimblemill Road Smethwick B67 5RG	Proposed demolition of the Thimblemill PH and club house and erection of purpose built care home together with associated parking, landscaping, cycle and refuse storage (revised application – DC/14/56747).

This is a major application.

DC/14/57013	Mr SS & BS Dubb	Land Adj 5 Rawlings Road & Rear Of 460 - 470 (evens) Bearwood Road Smethwick B66 4HA	Demolition of existing buildings, including manufacturing workshops, retail and residential dwellings. Erection of 12 No. 1 bed & 1 No. 2 bed dwellings (revised application – DC/13/56569).

The proposed development does not accord with the provisions of the Development Plan in force in the area in which it is situated.

DC/14/57075	Mr Akkas Sheikh	Units 1-3 163, & 148 Leabrook Road Tipton DY4 0DY	Proposed extensions and change of use of factory units to multifunctional conference & banqueting hall (revised application DC/13/56308).

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE
(between 8.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday to Thursday, and 8.00a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.
MR NICK BUBALO, Area Director – Regeneration and Economy

JAMES WILLIAM BROWNING (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 51 Mason Street West Bromwich West Midlands B70 9NL, who died on 04/02/2013, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 15/08/2014, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
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Aztec 650 Aztec West
Almondsbury Bristol BS32 4SD
(Ref: SMI/3229602P/Browning) T411194

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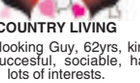

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Squad grab crucial points in table race

Stourbridge 1st XI 96-1 Water Orton 95
Stourbridge win

STOURBRIDGE Firsts were able to snap up crucial points in the race for the coveted top two positions in Division two of the Birmingham and District Premiere League.

The Memorial Ground outfit outplayed the visitors, Water Orton first XI and bagged maximum 24 points to remain in the second spot on 85 points. Leamington Spa leads the pack on 94 points. Stour are well placed 24 points ahead of Brewood in third position, writes Harilal Patel.

Water Orton skipper Stephen Bevan's

Cricket

decision to bat first back fired big time as his side crumbled to 53-7 and all out for 95 batting just 38 overs of the 50 available.

Late 40 runs partnership between Gary Crouch (24) and No.8 Sukhjit Singh (31) saved embarrassment. Audy Alexander, a left hand leggy, destroyed the middle order taking the wickets of Harry Bennett, caught behind for 19; Gary Crouch LBW, and bowled Grant Roscorla for a duck all three fell on 53.

Worse followed with the fall of the fourth wicket on the same score Bilal Hassan deceiving Mathew Ringin caught for a duck. Alexander's three wickets cost 22 off 12 overs.

Stour openers Alex Bingham and Steve Game batted with purpose. Stour reached the required target in 22 overs. Game was the only one out falling LBW to spinner Stephen Bevan for 15.

Bingham remained not out on 50 seeing his team home. **Water Orton 2nd XI 145**
S-bridge 2nd XI
Stourbridge win

Skipper Mikesh Patel called right and asked the opposition to bat first. The decision paid dividends in, not only bowling out Water Orton for a low total, but he returned his best bowling figures of the season taking a fifer for 27 off 11 overs. No.3 Shaluka Devind top scored with 64. Stours emerging young prospects Tom Westwood 57(no) and Will Jennings (43) backed up their skippers' bowling feat by seeing their side to victory in the 32nd over.

Stourbridge 4th XI 155 XI West Malvern 2nd XI 180-9
West Malvern win

Mole is on board for new track project

CRADLEY have brought Tony Mole on board to take responsibility for their new track project, writes Nigel Pearson.

Mole, the British Speedway President, has an unequalled record in bringing the sport back to areas of the country which have been starved of speedway for years.

And although the Heathens are thriving at their shared Wolverhampton base, the management remain determined to take them to a new home.

Club spokesman Gary Patchett said: "Tony will need no introduction to our supporters after all but bringing the club to a new home in Colley Gate nearly 10-years ago and his success in bringing defunct clubs back to the sport is unparalleled.

"Tony's brief will be to advise on any site possibilities but with a specific focus on the potential site we have had on the radar for some time."

Mole was the man responsible for taking the sport back to Workington in 1999 and Birmingham in 2007. Heathens are next in action on Saturday, June 14, when they go to Devon – and the following afternoon Steve Worrall and Max Clegg represent the club at the National League Pairs.

Pubs ready for the World Cup bonanza

IT'S not long now until the whole country unites to share the agony, ecstasy and, historically, disappointment when England play in a major tournament.

And while fans get ready to paint themselves red and white and declare their love for St George and the Three Lions pubs in the Midlands are hoping the World Cup will provide a much-welcome boost.

Football

They could be seeing even more pour through the doors than would normally be expected after it emerged there won't be any large scale public screening of games in the Black Country, Staffordshire and Birmingham.

That's because councils in the region have snubbed the chance to show England's World Cup games in Brazil on big screens in parks and town centres.

Instead bars in the Midlands are rubbing their hands as the prospect of bumper takings with the first game against Italy taking place 11pm on June 14.

None of the four Black Country councils, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley will host outdoor events showing the games.

In addition Cannock, South Staffordshire and Stafford councils won't be providing a site for England fans to enjoy the sun and the football.

And Birmingham City Council, which has held public events at Millennium Point and Victoria Square in the city centre in the past, has no plans to shows Roy's boys in Brazil.

Wolverhampton City Council spokesman Gurdip Thandi said:"There are currently no plans to arrange for a big screen to be installed at a city venue to televise World Cup games during the summer.

"The council endorsed the Government's proposals to relax licensing hours during England matches which will support the city's pubs."

Government ministers gave the go-ahead for local authorities to allow pubs and bars to stay open for longer during the World Cup.

The rulings allowed pubs could to stay open for up to four hours after each England match kicks off, although no alcohol can be served after 1am.

One Black Country sports bar boss says plans for authorities not to stage large gathering for games will be to the benefit of licensees.."

.In Wollaston, Stourbridge, The Britannia Inn Sports Bar has made England versus Italy an all ticket affair due to the demand to watch the game.

Ted Etheridge, who is one of the managers at the bar, said: "I think the fact councils aren't showing the games is a boost to pubs.".

Charlotte paddles the opposition for title

Charlotte Bardsley, aged 12, from Woodfield Table Tennis Club, Penn, Wolverhampton has won her first

A YOUNG table tennis ace from a Wolverhampton club has won her first national title after battling back from the brink of elimination.

Charlotte Bardsley, aged 12 and who plays at Woodfield Table Tennis Club, Penn, Wolverhampton, claimed the national Under-12 girls' singles crown in Doncaster on Sunday.

But she was forced to dig deep in the semi-final as she fought back from 2-0 down against Alice Dillon to win a five-set thriller 6-11, 3-11, 11-9, 11-7, 11-4.

The final against Amelia Chan was more routine as she triumphed 3-1 (11-7, 12-10, 10-12, 11-5).

"I feel really happy and proud," said Bardsley, of Kinver who attends Heathfields School in Wolverley, Kidderminster.

"I thought I was buried in the semi-final, but when I won the third set I got my confidence back and focused a bit more. I think to win a title you need determination, hard work and being able to listen, and I'm grateful to my coach and parents as well."

Charlotte's father Richard said: "She only started playing in January last year so she has done really well to achieve what she has.

"She has won a lot of tournaments already but nothing as big as this one.."

George league struggles continue

Warwick & Worcester Crown Green Bowls Premier Division 1
The Greville 228 The George 183

THE first team are still struggling to put together a decent run of form and were defeated away by current league champions The Greville.

The George did not have a winner until the eighth game when Steve Darling won 21-11.

Wins by Marc Wilson (21-9) and Paul Hemming (21-19) in the back four kept the margin of defeat down to 45 shots.

South Staffs Premier Division
The George 251
Hawkins 139

The seconds had a big 112-shot home win over newly-promoted Hawkins, picking up 13 valuable points. They had 11 winners, the best of which were Bill Chiswell (21-2), Darren Wood (21-4) and Gary Peniket (21-6)

Warwick & Worcester Alliance Division 2
The George 242
Broomfield 168

The third team had a convincing 74-shot home win over local rivals Broomfield to keep their promotion push on track. The best of their10 winners were Jan Pratley (21-5), Dave James and Terry Williams (both 21-8).

Team needs old hands, says Taylor

IAN TAYLOR is urgingVilla to invest in experience if they are going to improve.

The claret and blue legend insisted the lack of players going to the World Cup highlights the need for new blood. Brad Guzan and Ron Vlaar are the only two Villa players heading to Brazil after Vlaar's selection for the final Netherlands squad was rubber-stamped.

Villa have struggled in the Premier League and boss Paul Lambert has admitted he needs to buy experience to avoid another battle against relegation. "In World Cup year we used to have most of our team go away and now we have two in the whole squad and they are not English," said Taylor.

Keane in frame for Villa No.2

ROY KEANE has emerged as a shock contender to assist Paul Lambert as the Villa boss closed in on his No.2.

Ireland assistant Keane is on the verge of joining the claret and blues after rejecting the chance to manage Celtic.

Despite the club's impending sale, Lambert has been looking for new coaching staff since No.2 Ian Culverhouse and head of football operations Gary Karsa were sacked.

Gordon Cowans and Shay Given were promoted tohelp but Lambert wants a permanent assistant.

Joining Villa will allow Keane to continue his duties with of Ireland and also his role as an ITV pundit for the Champions League.

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SPORT

Brazil nuts
Pubs hope to cash in on World Cup fever
Page 51

Title tabled
Charlotte takes national honours
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Taylor's fears for Villa over owner

IAN TAYLOR revealed his fear for Villa – unless they find a buyer quickly.

The claret and blue legend believes Randy Lerner must sell before the start of the season so the club can avoid another struggle.

Kazakhstani businessman Tevfik Arif has been reported to be in the frame to buy Villa after Lerner put the club on the market.

But Taylor admitted he is worried about the club if they cannot find a new owner in time for the new season.

"You need everything in place before you go and buy players," said the former midfielder. "There were question marks over Paul Lambert and whether he was going to stay or not.

"They have said he will stay, so does Randy Lerner give him money to spend, if he's going? It's a Catch-22 really, why would Randy give the manager money when he is leaving?

"It's a difficult one and I don't know how it is going to be handled but as long as it is done before the start of the season it's good for everyone.

"You don't want to be going into the start of the season without an owner and without a plan of what you want to do. It needs to be done before you go back for pre-season."

Maritz master of the match

SOUTH African blaster Jacabus Vorster Maritz smashed a blistering century to fire Wednesbury into third place in the Staffs Club Premier Division.

His 62-ball 103 helped his side race to 179-5 inside 28 overs as they claimed a five-wicket win against Rugeley.

His knock included seven sixes and enabled Wednesbury to recover from 5-2.

Earlier, Waqas Ahmed's 4-41 had helped dismiss Rugeley for 178.

Wednesbury skipper Bal Matharu said of Maritz: "He batted brilliantly. He was a different class to anybody else.

"It looks on the scorecard like a one-man show, although the middle-order lads that batted with him did really well to support him and rotate the strike."

He added: "There is definitely more to come from us."

Albion make it clear, Thorne is not for sale

Football

ALBION will tell Derby that George Thorne is not for sale despite the midfielder's astonishing weekend outburst over his future.

Thorne risked the wrath of the Baggies and their fans by claiming his heart is no longer at The Hawthorns and insisted he would not return to Albion to sit on the bench.

Derby are preparing a bid for Thorne after his successful loan spell helped Steve McClaren's men reach the Championship play-off final last season.

But the Baggies have decided to play hardball in the potential summer wrangle and will tell Rams officials they are unwilling to sell the 21-year-old, who emerged from the academy at his parent club.

Thorne is due to return to Albion when the squad report for pre-season training early next month but he told a Sunday newspaper: "I felt like a squad player at West Brom and most times not even that.

"I've never really had a sustained spell or a chance and enough's enough. On my mind now is playing football and Derby is a very good option for me. Anyone who knows me will tell you that, compared to how I have been, I'm much happier now. I felt at home at Derby, I felt wanted at Derby, which I certainly didn't at West Brom.

"West Brom are aware of my feelings towards the club, my heart is no longer there, too much has happened.

"My family supported me when the club did not help me to progress, maybe that's how it is there, I don't know.

"I've had plenty of opportunities just to get out and get play football and at times West Brom have made it really complicated. All I wanted to do was play football."

Albion, who hope to progress their hunt for a new head coach this week, are unimpressed by the interview but are determined not to cave in easily to Thorne and Derby's wish for a permanent transfer. Thorne added: "I have had a fantastic time at Derby and I won't rule out a move there."

The squad, the manager, the style of play, the fans... it's a great club.

"But one thing I will rule out is that I won't be going anywhere to be a squad player."

MULUMBU MOVE IS LAUGHED OFF

ALBION have laughed off claims that Youssouf Mulumbu could leave this summer as their head coach search rumbled on.

The Baggies have reacted with indifference to the latest summer claims from Mulumbu's representatives that the midfielder, who signed a new two-year deal at the start of last season, could move on.

Football

And attentions behind the scenes at The Hawthorns are focused instead on finding Pepe Mel's successor, with the club still keen to make an appointment early next week.

Mulumbu, whose deal has an extra year's option in Albion's favour, is no stranger to summer speculation with his name linked to moves away in every summer of his Baggies career.

Agent Doug Pingisi said: "Youssouf has completed a good, consistent season despite the difficulties West Brom encountered.

Matured

"He's demonstrated that he's gone up a level and has matured all round. He's now aspiring to test himself in European competitions."

However, Albion officials have privately dismissed the comments.

They are continuing to interview potential candidates to replace Mel but ex-Swansea boss Michael Laudrup is unlikely to be among them after he appeared to rule himself out.

Laudrup, who led Swansea to Capital One Cup success in 2013 but left the club last season amid frosty relations with his players, had been favoured by a section of the Albion fanbase as the ideal man to take over.

The Denmark legend told the media in his homeland: "I have talked to clubs in England and Spain.

"I will try to not sound arrogant now, because I am not, but it has been clubs on a level where I have already been.

"I have tried smaller clubs in the two big leagues, Getafe and Mallorca in Spain and Swansea in the Premier League.

"Therefore, I do not see any reason to repeat it.

"That leaves with me two options: to wait for an offer from a big club or accept one of the offers I have received from clubs outside Europe."

Meanwhile, Saido Berahino admits he has had a 'crazy' season and he could never have anticipated the success he achieved in his breakthrough season at Albion.

"It's been a crazy season with ups and downs; my breakthrough into the first team, which I didn't expect to go the way it did," he said.

"I thank God for everything that's happened."

Crash tragedy brings British rally to a halt

Richard Sykes' rally was beset by problems before it was stopped due to a tragic accident

Stourbridge's Richard Sykes won a tense battle in the British Rally Championship (BRC) Challenge category of the Jim Clark rally last weekend.

However, the event ended in tragic circumstances with an accident involving some spectators.

Sykes endured a difficult run up to the rally. The Bathams Brewery and G I Sykes Ltd-supported Citroën C2 R200 was involved in an accident while on it's way back from a test facility. However, after extensive work the car was back on track. The BRC Challenge rally started on Friday night with a stage around Duns town centre. Sykes was quickly into his stride, setting the fastest time by nearly three seconds from Ross Hunter. The fastest times continued on stages two and three which allowed Sykes to take a nine second overnight lead.

Despite overheating problems Sykes was able to maintain his lead up until stage 14 when Hunter overhauled him.

Sykes charged through the 11 miles of stage 16 over 13 seconds quicker than Hunter to lead by two seconds. There should have been two more stages but sadly an accident caused the event to be stopped.

Tragically some spectators died after being hit by a car..

Get team sorted soon – McAuley

GARETH McAULEY has urged Albion to finalise their squad for the start of pre-season training as the head coach hunt prepared to enter its fourth week.

The Baggies hope to make headway in the next few days in the search for Pepe Mel's successor as concerns grow behind the scenes that further delays could see them miss out on their top transfer targets.

McAuley is keen for the club to do their transfer business early to avoid a repeat of last season, when they never recovered from a poor start and avoided relegation by just three points.

"There is a lot of work to go on ," said McAuley.

"We need to get the new players in and, when we go away for pre-season, that's the best time for everyone to be in because you're working on stuff.

"If you do it just before the start of the new season, new faces pop up and they don't know what you've been working on for the previous five or six weeks and it's difficult for them to get going.

"Hopefully we can get things sorted as early as possible."

Club revival is just the ticket

WOLVES say 12,500 season tickets have already been sold as fans rally to the Kenny Jackett revival.

The club is confident it will hit its target of 14,500 after promotion to the Championship. The thumbs-up from the box office is another reminder of the repair job head coach Jackett has undertaken.

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